

METEOROLOGY.—MEGRETT & ZAMBRA'S PATENT THERMOMETER.—Messrs. MEGRETT & ZAMBRA beg to inform Scientific Gentlemen that their PATENT MAXIMUM THERMOMETER may now be the subject of the principal Opticians and Country. As it is probable that interested parties may endeavour to disparage the above invention, Messrs. MEGRETT & ZAMBRA beg to submit the following letter received by them from J. G. LAURENCE, Esq., of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, who has now had the instrument in constant use for nearly twelve months:—

"Gentlemen,—In reply to your inquiry of this day, I have no hesitation in confirming the opinion expressed to you in my note of April the 26th, respecting your new Maximum Thermometer; since that time the instrument has been in use, and generally received by the observers of the British Meteorological Society, whose opinion coincides with my own,—viz., that it is infinitely better than any in previous use.—I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,
JAMES GLAISHER."

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PUBLISHED THIS DAY.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 21, 1853.

REVIEWS

The Grenville Papers: being the Correspondence of Richard Grenville Earl Temple, K.G., and the Right Hon. George Grenville, their Friends and Contemporaries. Now first published from the Original MSS. formerly preserved at Stowe. Edited with Notes, by W. J. Smith, Esq. Vols. III. & IV. Murray.

HERE we have the concluding volumes of this valuable contribution to modern history—of a work which, be its immediate interest greater or less, must ever take rank among historical authorities;—and here we have, what are called the Junius letters—the mysterious discoveries at Stowe which for thirty or more years have been the subject of so much discussion, founded, as we long since said, on mere confident and ignorant assertion. These Junius letters, and the question which they are thought to illustrate, are introduced by a very able Essay; but as that Essay is but a discourse founded on an incident, and as the subject is of limited interest,—we shall give our first attention to the general Correspondence.

As a characteristic we should say, that these volumes, as compared with the former, are of more general interest but of less historical value. They contain much opposition talk, speculation, report, and gossip; but this is necessarily one-sided—more amusing than instructive—a light that does not always illuminate, and that sometimes leads astray,—whereas in the former volume, by the aid of George Grenville, his diary and correspondents, we got behind the scenes,—and the comparisons to which this helped us tended greatly to heighten the interest. Here, only for six months, and then but in name, was he Minister; and the Court itself during the greater part of that time was in angry opposition.

The Regency Bill is generally considered as the immediate ground on which the Ministers were wrecked, although the King failed at the moment to get rid of them; we shall therefore give an abstract of proceedings in relation to this Bill from Mr. Grenville's diary. It appears, as understood, to have originated with the King. Mr. Grenville records—

"Wednesday, 3rd [April]. * * Mr. Grenville went afterwards to the King in his Closet; His Majesty told him that, before he spoke upon any other subject, he desired to apprise him of one of a very serious nature—namely, a Bill of Regency, which he had thought upon during his illness, but would not enter upon 'till he was quite well, and able to appear. He said he wished his servants to have a meeting upon it, such of them as by their offices would be of the Council of the Regency, and had therefore settled a meeting for the next day, with the Chancellor and the Duke of Bedford, to whom His Majesty said he had that day named it, and that he, the King, had appointed it for the next day at the Chancellor's, that it might not keep Mr. Grenville in town. (N.B. The King wrote to Lord Chancellor with his own hand, to order him to come to him, and sent to the Duke of Bedford, but Mr. Grenville and Lord Halifax received no notice of His Majesty's being in town but from Lord Sandwich.) The King talked a good deal upon the subject; said that he approved of the plan of the Bill made in the late King's time, except that he wished to have the power of naming the Regent left to himself, by instruments in writing, without specifying the particular person in the Act of Parliament, which he thought would be a means to prevent any faction or uneasiness in his family upon this subject. Mr. Grenville expressed his general approbation of the King's goodness in thinking of a Regency, but avoided saying anything with regard to the change by the proposal of reserving the nomination to the King, which then appeared to him liable to great objec-

tions, some of which he mentioned to the Duke of Bedford and Lord Sandwich as soon as he left the Closet. The King was averse to having the Princes of the blood in the Council of Regency, and said he thought it would create jealousy and uneasiness."

We, of course, can only select such salient points as will best illustrate the progress of events.—

"Monday, April 22nd.—Mr. Grenville went into the Closet before the Council, and upon His Majesty asking who was already come, Mr. Grenville named the Archbishop, with whom he said he had been talking about the Bill. His Majesty asked what the Archbishop said to it. Mr. Grenville told him that he had been asking what answer was to be given to such people as might ask why this Bill was altered from the former, in the Article of not immediately appointing the Regent, to which Mr. Grenville said he had told the Archbishop that it was with a view to prevent faction, considering the youth of all the branches of the Royal family, and then asked His Majesty if that was not the answer to be given. The King, in some agitation, said, 'Mr. Grenville, you have more than once thrown out an idea of this being attended with some difficulty, particularly you did so on Friday last: is that your opinion, and from whence does it arise?' Mr. Grenville told His Majesty that he thought it his duty to acquaint him that he believed it would be much more secure to name the Regent, as men's minds would by degrees accustom themselves to what they were hereafter to expect, and be more ready to confirm it, from the habit of seeing it, and consequently the fear of faction would be less; but at the same time it was a subject of a very delicate nature, in which so much of His Majesty's own particular feelings and domestic happiness was concerned, that he did not mean to press his own opinion upon him, nor to make an act of goodness from His Majesty to his people (for which he and all his subjects must be filled with gratitude) grievous to him in the execution. The King paused, seemed agitated and embarrassed, asked if it would meet with difficulty in the House of Commons; to which Mr. Grenville answered him that he believed it would be opposed, but that was not the difficulty which operated upon his mind—it was from a cause much more remote. The King said, 'What shall I do? shall I propose the doubt to the Council?' Mr. Grenville said, that must be as His Majesty pleased, that he could not say that the objections he himself had made were those of any of the King's other servants. The King asked him if he thought the Council would give their opinion if he asked it; Mr. Grenville said he could not tell; that possibly such of them as had known of this measure for some time past might; that he for his part was ready to do it in public, in private, or in any place where it should be required, but that in a matter of such magnitude, those to whom it was entirely new might not care, on such short notice, to give a decisive answer. His Majesty then said he would open the affair in general terms, without proposing the doubt. When the two Secretaries of State went in, His Majesty mentioned to them the objection Mr. Grenville had made; he did the same to the Chancellor, and to the Duke of Bedford, but with great temper, as they afterwards told Mr. Grenville."

"Friday, April 26th, 1765.—Lord Halifax, before the Levée this morning, was told by the King that he heard there would be a great deal of opposition to the Regency Bill, and that it would be very disagreeable if they should move to name the Princes, his brothers, and the Duke of Cumberland, to be of the Council, and for his Ministers to put a negative to them: that he thought it might therefore be better to name them. He said the same thing afterwards to Lord Sandwich, and still more strongly after that, to the Duke of Bedford. * * The King took no notice to Mr. Grenville that he had seen both his brothers about two hours before, nor of what had passed, though that was the conversation which His Majesty referred to when he spoke to the Duke of Bedford to-day, on the subject of adding the names of his brothers and of the Duke of Cumberland in the Regency Bill. After speaking to the Duke of Bedford, the King sent in again for

Lord Halifax, and ordered him to summon a meeting of those Lords who had been at the former meeting, for to-night, in order to consider of this subject, and of the means to carry it into execution. Mr. Grenville being at the Treasury, did not go to St. James's till after two o'clock, when the King was set out from thence upon his return to Richmond, and therefore did not see him to-day. Lord Halifax went to the House of Lords to speak to the Lord Chancellor upon this business, to whom the King bid him say that His Majesty would have writ to him to have seen him upon it, but that the thought came so suddenly into his head that he had no time to do it. When Lord Halifax informed Lord Chancellor of this, he found him much dissatisfied with it, and His Lordship refused upon any account to attend at any meeting upon it, saying that he had already given his opinion upon it, but that he should not oppose what the King thought fit to do with respect to his Royal family. Lord Halifax afterwards spoke to Lord Mansfield, who said that this question about the King's appointing his brothers and his uncle to be of the Council of Regency, could not be proper for a Cabinet meeting, which he therefore advised against, but consented to meet with Lord Halifax, Lord Sandwich, the Duke of Bedford, and Mr. Grenville, this evening. From him, Lord Halifax and Lord Sandwich went to the House of Commons, and sent to Mr. Grenville, to whom they told what had passed, to his great surprise. He told them that he agreed in thinking that this was no business for a meeting, nor could any opinion about it be given at one. Lord Halifax then wrote to the King, and informed him that Lord Chancellor had declined coming to any meeting about it, but would not oppose what the King should think fit to do with respect to his Royal family; that he (Lord Halifax) would try to see such of His Majesty's principal servants as he should be able, and consult with them what would be proper to be done. At eight o'clock in the evening, Mr. Grenville went to Lord Halifax's, where he found his Lordship and the Duke of Bedford, and immediately after came in Lord Sandwich and Lord Mansfield, but just before the two last came in, the messenger, whom Lord Halifax had sent to the King at Richmond returned, with an answer from the King to Lord Halifax's note, which answer was in the following words:—"Lord Halifax, I approve of your attention in transmitting to me the Chancellor's declining attending the meeting to-night, though not disinclined to a provision being made for my Royal family, if I think that the circumstances of the times makes (make) it expedient. I desire Lord Halifax will send me to-morrow a copy of the Minute, that I intend to keep, and that he will accompany (it) with a line, if any particular has been said by any Person."

'20 min. after 6.'

This letter of the King was shown to the four who were present, and they all agreed that no opinion could be given at any meeting concerning the fitness of appointing the Princes of the Royal family to be of the Council, but seemed to think that the properest manner of doing it, if it was to be done, would be by message from the King, specifying it, as was done in the former instance in the late King's reign. It was insisted upon, that Lord Halifax should not show any Minute in writing of this meeting, and that what was said was only for his information with respect to the language which he should hold when he should see the King, which he proposed to do to-morrow by going to Richmond, and it seemed resolved between them that Lord Sandwich would go thither with him."

In consequence of these resolutions, Lords Halifax and Sandwich wrote to the King, asking leave to wait on him and give an account of the result of the deliberations. Halifax appears at that time to have been rather less disliked than the other Ministers,—though Lord Mahon, we believe, makes Halifax rather intrusive than sought after; which might seem justified by the following reply, after the Court—not courteous—fashion.—

"Lord Halifax, I chuse to have my time when I am at Richmond to myself, and not to have it broke in upon, and as it will make no difference in the going on with the Regency Bill, I will not fail being in

town to-morrow at ten o'clock to receive Lord Sandwich and you. I am a little surprised that Lord Halifax did not send me a line with a sketch of what had passed, though it might want more explanation, and I do insist on the doing it to satisfy my curiosity before I hear the rest to-morrow.

"(Dated 8 o'clock, A.M.)."

A month later Mr. Grenville received another of these "cut" Circulars.—

"The King to Mr. Grenville.

"(Tuesday, May 21, 1765.) 15 min. past 9, P.M.

"Mr. Grenville,—I am surprised that you are not yet come, when you know it was my orders to be attended this evening, I expect you therefore to come the moment you receive this."

It was subsequently arranged between the King and the Chancellor (Northington) that His Majesty should content himself with naming the five Princes of the blood as Counsellors to the Regent,—giving up the nomination of the four others, and only filling up the places of the five on the death of any of them; and so His Majesty was pleased to inform his Prime Minister, and then to ask his opinion. Mr. Grenville answered, very naturally, as it appears to us, that he had been honoured with so little of His Majesty's confidence that he had not formed an opinion:—and he availed himself of the opportunity to inquire, how he had offended His Majesty? His Majesty "started, seemed surprised." Mr. Grenville volunteered a justification of himself; during which the King "seemed exceedingly agitated, changed countenance, neither denied nor admitted the charge, said no words of anger, nor none of excuse or softening, but seemed surprised, and rather put on a smile of good-humour when Mr. Grenville made his bow." Mr. Smith thinks this all very natural, and that Mr. Grenville's charge amounted only to—nothing. Mr. Smith may be right; for, two days after, when Mr. Grenville again expressed the concern and uneasiness which he felt at the apprehension of having displeased His Majesty, the King said, "Why do you think so, Mr. Grenville?"—"wondered he should listen to such idle tales and reports, asked if he ever had complained of him, and said if he had had any reason he would have told him so:—yet, within one fortnight, such was the King's eagerness to get rid of his Ministers, that the office of Prime Minister was, on conditions, hawked half over the kingdom. It is true, that at the moment nobody would accept it,—and therefore the Ministry was not turned out till two or three months later.

It was stated at the time, as an apology for the King's anger, that he had been misled as to the meaning of the words "Royal Family" in the Bill, and did not know that they would exclude his mother. If Mr. Grenville is to be believed, this could not have been.—

"The Duke of Richmond had put several questions to the House relative to the ascertaining the extent of the words Royal Family—whether or no a person born out of the kingdom could come within that description, &c. &c. Lord Halifax and his Grace had been very warm, and the Judges were ordered to deliver their opinion the next day upon the questions relative to the Queen being enabled to hold the office of Regent. The Chancellor declared that the Queen's marriage constituted her naturalization, and gave her all the privileges of a natural-born Englishwoman. The Duke of Bedford differed from the Chancellor, who said he thought, and was of opinion, that the words Royal Family included the Princess of Wales; whereas the Duke of Bedford said that it was his opinion that the words Royal Family extended only to those who were in the line of succession to the Crown. Lord Halifax told Mr. Grenville that in talking upon the Bill in the morning with the King, His Majesty had empowered him to confine it to the words 'born in England,' if he saw the least occasion for it. This surprised Mr. Grenville extremely. * * The words of the ques-

tion settled at the Duke of Bedford's, to be proposed to the Judges for their opinion, and which Lord Halifax was to lay before the King for his approbation, in order to ascertain whether or no the Princess of Wales was, or was not, included in the words Royal Family, were as follows:—"What is the interpretation of the words Royal Family according to the legal sense thereof in any Act or Acts of Parliament, where these words have been used?" And in case his Majesty was of himself disposed and inclined, as Lord Halifax imagined from what the King had said the day before, to put an end to this doubt, by inserting other words which would not include Her Royal Highness, that then the description might be by inserting the following words: "or any person of the Royal Family descended from the late King, His Majesty's Royal Grandfather." The Ministers who dined together agreed that it was indispensably necessary to ascertain the doubt which had been raised in the House of Peers, what persons could be appointed Regents under the words 'Royal Family,' and that if the Opposition of the House of Commons should insist upon an explanation of it, it would be impossible to refuse it. Lord Halifax and Lord Sandwich went to Court on Friday the 3rd of May, and on mentioning this difficulty to the King, His Majesty proposed to them to explain it by words which would exclude the Princess Dowager; in consequence of which the words above mentioned were immediately agreed to and settled by the King, of which Lord Halifax informed Mr. Grenville by a word as he passed by his Lordship to go into the Closet: and when Mr. Grenville waited upon the King, His Majesty told him he hoped he had settled it with Lord Halifax in such a manner as would obviate all difficulties, and repeated to him the words above mentioned, and informed him at the same time that he had authorized Lord Halifax the day before to put an end to this doubt; that Lord Halifax had told him it would make the whole easier, and particularly in the House of Commons, where some gentlemen might otherwise have difficulties about the meaning of the general words. When Lord Halifax went to the House of Lords, Lord Bute came up to him as if by chance, and said some indifferent thing to him (which he had not done before of a long time), and said to him, My Lord; what have you to move? to which Lord Halifax said 'the words now and usually residing in Great Britain.' Lord Bute said, 'Why do you not put an end to the doubt at once by adding the words 'born in England,' which would explain the whole, and exclude the Princess.' This Lord Halifax said he was authorized to do, if it should be found expedient. 'Why then do you not do it at once? I think it would be the better way, but you know your own business best.' This conversation passed on Thursday the 2nd of May. The King had himself suggested the words to Lord Halifax. This conversation Lord Halifax repeated again to Mr. Grenville on the 8th of May."

The issue, so far as history is concerned, is well known; but the private scenes in the Royal Closet are startling in themselves, and in strange contrast to the past, of only a few days or hours. On the 5th May—

"As soon as Mr. Grenville came in, the King coloured, and, with great emotion, said that he had something to speak to him upon, which gave him the greatest uneasiness, which was the mark of disregard shown to the Princess of Wales, his mother, by the words which excluded her alone from the Regency; that he had talked upon that subject to the Chancellor, who agreed with him in the impropriety of it, and had told him that many people were much offended at it, and that a Motion against it would be made by the Opposition. The King added, that Mr. Grenville must see how strange a thing it would be to have this proposal come from the Opposition, and to be opposed by his servants; that besides, the offence it marked to his mother was what he could not bear, and therefore was desirous to have some means of altering it found out; that the Chancellor had said it could not now be done in the House of Lords, but that it might be by a message to the House of Commons. Mr. Grenville told His Majesty that he could not be surprised at any of the feelings of regard from His Majesty to

Her Royal Highness, which could make him see with concern anything that could look like a slight to her; but that Lord Halifax having been authorized by His Majesty to propose them, the King seemed to throw it upon Lord Halifax, and to make a distinction upon the words 'born in England, and descended from the late King,' which singly excluded his mother, but that his uneasiness was very great, and asked Mr. Grenville if it could not be done in the House of Commons by adding the words 'Princess Dowager of Wales, and the descendants of the late King.' Mr. Grenville then endeavoured to show His Majesty how impossible it was for him to propose the alteration; that His Majesty's Secretary of State having, with his authority, proposed those words, which excluded Her Royal Highness, how could his Chancellor of the Exchequer by the same authority propose the adding her name? that people must and would suppose that either the one or the other had mistaken His Majesty. The King then asked him if it could still be done in the House of Lords. Mr. Grenville said he imagined in point of form it might be done; but if there was any difference between their proceedings and those of the Commons, Lord Mansfield was without, from whom His Majesty could be informed. He appealed to the King if he (Mr. Grenville) had ever mentioned the exclusion of Her Royal Highness; that he had been from the beginning for naming the Regent, and had afterwards agreed with the King upon the necessity of ascertaining who was capable of being named under the words of the Act of Parliament. The King seemed much agitated, and felt the force of what Mr. Grenville said in regard to the different directions given to his servants in the two Houses, but still enforced the argument of this being moved by the gentlemen of the Opposition. Mr. Grenville said, that even without any directions from His Majesty, he should never have opposed any mark of respect offered to Her Royal Highness; that on the contrary he meant to have said, that he could not but suppose that every degree of duty and regard from that House to any part of His Majesty's Royal Family could not be displeasing to His Majesty; and that this might be done in case the question was proposed.—Lord Mansfield went in after Mr. Grenville, and the Duke of Bedford and Mr. Grenville waited for his coming out. Lord Mansfield stayed with the King a very considerable time, urged very strongly to His Majesty the unhappy appearance of wavering and fluctuation which this affair must inevitably give to his councils, and declared it as his opinion that the Bill was now gone too far in the House of Lords to admit of any alteration taking its rise there, and used the same language with regard to the different language to be holden in the two Houses, by His Majesty's two principal servants, as Mr. Grenville had done. * *

"Monday, May 6th.—As soon as Lord Halifax came to town, he came to Mr. Grenville, who apprized him of what had passed the preceding day. Lord Halifax repeatedly assured Mr. Grenville that the words 'born in England' had been first proposed by the King to him and Lord Sandwich, and that he (Lord Halifax) had rather held back in it, telling His Majesty that it might possibly not be necessary. The King though in his talk to Lord Mansfield seemed angry with Lord Halifax, and said he had surprised him into the message; yet when he met his Lordship on Monday morning in Richmond Park in his chaise, His Majesty rode up to it, and spoke to him upon his health in the most gracious manner."

On the 14th the Duke of Cumberland, by the King's orders, wrote, "earnestly to desire" the presence of Lord Temple in town, for the purpose of negotiating a change of Ministry.

Lord Temple came, but was disposed rather to uphold the Ministry than the King. It was generally understood, that Lord Temple and Mr. Pitt made the absolute exclusion of Lord Bute a preliminary condition. Temple was consistent and resolved:—Mr. Pitt, we suspect, wavered, but could not accept without Lord Temple. Lord Temple was immediately reconciled to his brother; and, as we believe, was privately consulted as to the terms on which

the Ministry should consent to retain office. The more important were certainly very like those on which only he would accept it.—

"Lord Bute to have no share whatever in any shape in the King's councils. Mr. Stuart Mackenzie to be removed from his office of Privy Seal of Scotland, and no business whatever to be transacted through him."

Supported by Temple, George Grenville and the Bedfords stood firm to their conditions:—and the King was forced to yield. Bute retired into the country,—his brother, Mr. Stuart Mackenzie, was removed:—and the King never forgave them. The Ministers had certainly acted on the avowed policy of Lord Temple and Mr. Pitt,—in which policy Temple only was sincere. He would not consent to be a party to turn out men, and accept their places, who had acted as he thought properly and constitutionally,—perhaps by his advice,—we doubt not with his sanction.

The King, however, was not to be diverted from his purpose; and he retained the Ministry only until opportunity served to get rid of them,—even though he had no liking for their successors. Within three months the Rockingham were installed:—and within other three months the Court was intriguing against them. That the Rockinghams from the first had but an insecure tenure of office, was known; but we did not know—nor did they—how early the Court began, by active and indirect means, to undermine them,—neither was it heretofore suspected that the young Queen thus early, either as agent or as principal, intermeddled in politics.

Mr. Smith is of opinion, that the death of the Duke of Cumberland put an end to the curious negotiation referred to in the following Correspondence. We can add nothing on the subject to the information which may be gleaned from the letters themselves, except that Humphrey Cotes—honest Humphrey, as he was called—was a man of good family, at that time a wine-merchant; that Mackintosh was a barrister—both these being known intimates, and, we suspect, political and literary allies and agents of Lord Temple; and that General Græme was Private Secretary and Comptroller of the Household to the Queen, and M.P. for Perth. The first document is but a fragment of a letter from Mr. Mackintosh to Lord Temple:—somewhat shadowy and indistinct, but easily interpreted by what follows!—

"By all accounts there is the greatest passiveness in the Closet, but there are no great marks of cordiality. The — (King) more and more hurt: obliged to absolute submission, and dare not take the least on: puts on an appearance of cheerfulness, but in his retired hours discovers the sharpest feelings, and to particulars, shows the awkwardness of his situation, and his sense of the odd appearance of things, by a visibly out-of-countenance look. There was a story soon after I came to town, that L. B. (Lord Bute) had gone and taken a formal leave of the (King); but I paid no attention to it. Lately I have had information that I have reason to believe I may rely upon; and I am assured that Lord Bute did, at an interview with the (King) since the change, tell him that he saw he could not be of any use to him; that he was unhappy enough to have been the occasion of so much uneasiness to him, by the attachment; and therefore begged him to think no more of it; that he would go abroad or do anything to make matters easy, and hoped his — (Majesty) would give up all thoughts of any correspondence. Since that, if I can lay any stress upon my authority, which was what should be good, and I am persuaded is fair and honest, Lord Bute has not seen the (King) but in public twice, one of the times to present his son; and that there really has been no correspondence by letters. This at least has been avowed, and is believed. To all this 't was to me added, from the breath of a very near quarter, that the (King) feels still the uneasiness of his present situa-

tion; that his strongest inclinations appear and are expressed for your Lordship and Mr. P. (Pitt) and an Administration on your bottom; that he wants to be at ease, and sees that only can give it him. A very strong expression was used to me 'that it was believed 't would make the King a foot higher, to be able to bring that about.' Some, I can say, that are personally attached to the (King), and do not chuse to take their mark from any other gnomon, avow their having no liking for, no confidence in, our present steersmen, and so much so that they have abstained going near them, though they have received broad hints, for which they give reasons that do not mark any apprehensions of pleasing the — (King). It has been expressly said to me, that this seems to be the very reason for being Masters of the Closet, and with every advantage; and that if your Lordship and Mr. Pitt would come in, or there were any means to bring you, you might have the most absolute influence. I do verily believe those from whom that language comes wish sincerely 't was brought about; and I have that opinion that they think what they say, upon grounds and evidence which they are able enough to judge of, and have full access to. I only give what I have got. The difficulty, as 't was fairly suggested, is the D—e (Duke of Cumberland), who, 't is visible (I have seen that clearly enough), is the head and soul of all. The error 't is now said is discovered, of having so totally surrendered regality into those hands, and that the fatality of the mistake is felt; which produces wishes as well as opinions of the necessity of being delivered: and 't is said that that was thought to have been the most probable means of satisfying your Lordship in particular, to use that mediation; because there had intervened certain marks of habitudes between your Lordship and the Duke of Cumberland or at least with P. A. (Princess Amelia?), and that the real ground was not known. Supposing things really to stand upon this foot, I'm sure I pretend not to think what may or should be your Lordship's feelings. I am sure the true wishes of the public are as I think they ought to be; and their looks are where there is only prospect of anything stable or salutary. But, for my own part, as these are my wishes, nevertheless I do desire full satisfaction of solid ground to stand upon before I see any risk run, by attempting to stand upon it; and nothing does or can alter my opinions upon that point, from what I have often declared 'em to be."

"Mr. Humphrey Cotes to Earl Temple.

"Bylett, October 13, 1763.

"My dear Lord,—I have been extremely impatient to transmit to your Lordship and my good Lady Temple, my poor thanks for the many and distinguishing marks of favour and civility I received when I last paid my devours at Stowe; the omission would have been quite unpardonable, had I not been busied in some trifling affairs, which the papers sent herewith will, in part, explain, if your Lordship will please to peruse them. Upon my arrival in town, I called upon our friend Mackintosh, who told me of the conversation had with General Græme, Secretary to Her Majesty, and showed me the notes he had taken to preserve precision. I, in turn, acquainted him with the particulars which your Lordship gave me in charge; we appointed to dine together the next day; when he assured me that your sentiments gave entire satisfaction to Mr. G.; but that he desired that the substance might be reduced into writing: this, I own, was a very delicate business, and embarrassed me not a little. We passed the whole afternoon of that day in forming this business, and inclosed you will receive a copy of what was delivered to Mr. G.: I can only assure your Lordship that the utmost caution and attention was observed in forming this paper to convey entire your sentiments, and it will make me extremely happy to find, that we have acted in this particular to your good-liking. The notes inclosed, wrote by our friend, will explain the rest, and I shall only add that it gives me real satisfaction to find so much good sense and discernment in the Q. (Queen), which must in the end produce some good effect, as I hope the present business will; I think at least it will bring forth the K.'s real sentiments. It would be doing great injustice upon this occasion not to mention the fervent zeal and indefatigable attention of our friend Mr. M. I can, with great truth, bear testimony

for him in the pursuit of this great object. Mr. G. had not an opportunity of conveying the written paper to the Q. (Queen) till last Tuesday night, when he gave it into her own hand, together with a letter he wrote himself upon the subject; copy of which I shall send to your Lordship next week, and which Mr. M. tells me was very satisfactory. He has heard nothing from G. since that time, but imagined when I left him yesterday in town, that something would come from that quarter as (ere) this. We have appointed to dine together on Tuesday next in town, when, possibly, I may have something new to convey to your Lordship, which I shall take care to do by a safe hand."

We suspect, that the Court party thought by this separate treaty to detach Lord Temple from Mr. Pitt,—separation was their established policy; but Temple, consistent ever, told them that Mr. Pitt was "indispensable." How generously Pitt rewarded him when personally intrusted with like powers, appeared a few months later.—

"Earl Temple to (Mr. Mackintosh).

[From a draught in the hand-writing of Lord Temple.]

"Stowe, Sunday night, October 13, 1763.

"My dear Sir,—I have perused the Minutes you sent me, which carry with them every mark of being, as far as they go, strictly genuine. Nothing can be more amiable than the whole tenor of the conversation on one part, or more friendly towards me on the other, than the various explanations given both of my feelings and conduct in almost all the parts which were touched. An obligation I can never forget. The delivery of the Paper, as the result of what had passed here, is very delicate, and you know I chose to say as little as possible; it contains, however, the result of my real feelings, and is unexceptionably drawn up; nay, so judiciously is it worded, that I would have wished to have had an opportunity of saying myself the same things to both if called upon, with the variation only of desiring to hear the King's ideas rather than presume to think of offering any of my own. My sense of the difficulties which late transactions have superadded to what was but too difficult before, no man who has conversed with me can be a stranger to. Mr. Pitt is in my notions indispensable, and you know I think too much regard cannot be shewn him. The determinations of his mind since he went into Somersetshire I know not; but whenever he is called upon as before, I take it for granted he will give them with the same duty and zeal. I read the latter part of your letter and smile,—I think we even laughed out at Stowe,—happy here and everywhere else in assuring you that I am sincerely, &c. &c. Many kind compliments to Mr. — I avoid writing more than is absolutely necessary. Infinite secrecy is indispensable.

"THE FOLLOWING is a copy of the PAPER above referred to by Lord Temple; it is in the handwriting of Mr. Mackintosh, and Lord Temple's draught of his reply is written upon the same paper:—

"—Have it in charge to say: That he takes the greatest confidence in the channel through which this communication comes: that he has the highest opinion of the Queen's amiable qualities and prudent conduct; of which he has always expressed his sense in the strongest terms, and should esteem himself very fortunate to possess her gracious regards. That he desires always to be stated to the King as full of the most dutiful and affectionate attachment, and should have the greatest pleasure in contributing to the honor, ease, and felicity of his Government. That he has much indulged the thoughts of retirement, but could not satisfy himself, if he did not all in his power, on every occasion, to promote the King's comfort and satisfaction, and to keep at a distance from him any cause of uneasiness. That for these ends he would cheerfully sacrifice his private enjoyments, and undertake the public service, if he can do it upon such clear ground, as may allow him to hope for success in it. But that no consideration on earth can induce him to engage in Administration, unless he is assured he enters upon it with the King's full cordiality and confidence, because he knows these are essential to the capacity of doing His Majesty, or the country, any effectual service. That he wishes for no negotiations, and is averse to

any interposition whatever; as nothing can be so agreeable, or so satisfactory to him, as to receive the King's pleasure from himself. But that if ever he is called upon, by his duty, in obedience to the King's commands, he will be happy in having a fair opportunity of explaining his ideas to His Majesty, upon what he judges most conducive to his service."

Here, after the established Court fashion, we shall "put on a smile of good humour," make our bow, and take leave for the present.

The Naval and Mail Steamers of the United States. By Charles B. Stuart, Engineer-in-Chief of the United States Navy. New York, Norton.

THE improvements which are constantly making in every department of mechanical science are shown in a most striking manner in the numerous modifications of the steam-engine. The laws by which are determined the mechanical value of heat are becoming more clearly understood, —and the untiring energy of man is displayed in the contrivances which he devises to enable him to avail himself to the utmost of these laws. Mr. Stuart claims for the United States a pre-eminence in civil and mechanical engineering which may fairly be questioned. Amongst their "great achievements," he says,—"none have been more marked and successful than those connected with our naval and mail steamers: whereby our intercourse with distant nations has been vastly facilitated, our commerce promoted, and our means of national defence greatly strengthened."

At the same time that we admit the beauty and excellence of many of the American steamers, and freely allow the defects of many of our own, —we cannot permit our large and admirable fleet of mail and merchant ships, whether propelled by the paddle-wheel or by the screw, to be depreciated as they are by the strong national prejudice of this engineer-in-chief of the United States Navy. The work before us is in itself an exemplification of the spirit which actuates the author: the question of cost can never have darkened his vision during its progress through the press, —and it consequently appears in the full glories of the finest print and paper, with a binding which fits a volume filled with mechanical details for the drawing-room table. The plates are very numerous, and most of them executed with great care, — particularly the sectional views of the steam machinery of the ships in the United States Navy; —while there is much picturesque effect in the general views of Mr. Stuart's favourite steamers.

The description given here of the Demologos, the first war steamer, is curious and of much interest. At the close of 1813, Robert Fulton exhibited to the President of the United States a drawing of a proposed war steamer or floating battery: —a vessel capable of carrying a strong battery, with furnaces for red-hot shot, and of being propelled by the power of steam at the rate of four miles an hour.

"It was contemplated that this vessel, besides carrying her proposed armament on deck, should also be furnished with submarine guns, two suspended from each bow, so as to discharge a hundred pound ball into an enemy's ship at ten or twelve feet below her water line. In addition to this, her machinery was calculated for the addition of an engine which would discharge an immense column of water upon the decks and through the port-holes of an enemy: —making her the most formidable engine of warfare that human ingenuity has contrived."

The executive embraced the project. The ship was estimated to cost three hundred and twenty thousand dollars: —and her building was intrusted to a committee appointed by the Coast and Harbour Defence Association.

"Robert Fulton, whose soul animated the enterprise, was appointed the engineer: —and on the 20th

day of June 1814, the keel of this novel steamer was laid at the shipyard of Adam & Noah Brown, her able and active constructors, in the city of New York, —and on the 29th of the following October —or in little more than four months —she was safely launched in the presence of multitudes of spectators who thronged the surrounding shores and were seen upon the hills which limited the beautiful prospect around the bay of New York."

Several trials were made with this war steamer, which proved thoroughly successful; and the name of the originator, Robert Fulton, was given to her in place of that of the Demologos. Mr. Stuart having described these trials, —thus proceeds: —

"The English were not uninformed as to the preparations which were making for them, nor inattentive to their progress. It is certain that the steam frigate lost none of her terrors in the reports or imaginations of the enemy. In a treatise on steam vessels, published in Scotland at that time, the author states that he has taken great care to procure full and accurate information of the steam frigate launched in New York, and which he describes in the following words. —'Length on deck three hundred feet; breadth two hundred feet; thickness of her sides thirteen feet of alternate oak plank and cork wood; carries forty-four guns, four of which are hundred pounders; quarter deck and fore-castle guns forty-four pounders; and further to annoy an enemy attempting to board, can discharge one hundred gallons of boiling water in a minute; and by mechanism brandishes three hundred cutlasses with the utmost regularity over her gunwales; works also an equal number of heavy iron pikes of great length, darting them from her sides with prodigious force and withdrawing them every quarter of a minute.'"

Fortunately, the Fulton was never called on to display her terrors: —for the war ended before she was completed. This armed steamer was used as a receiving ship until the 4th of June 1829; —when she blew up, killing twenty-four men and a woman, and wounding nineteen others. The cause of the explosion was never satisfactorily ascertained.

As a record of the present state of the steam navy of the United States Mr. Stuart's work is a valuable one.

Family Romance; or, Episodes in the Domestic Annals of the Aristocracy. By J. B. Burke. 2 vols. Hurst & Blackett.

The Romance of the Forum; or, Narratives, Scenes, and Anecdotes from Courts of Justice. By Peter Burke. 2 vols. Colburn & Co.

THESE two works, the production of brothers, have the same merits and the same defects. They imply a large acquaintance with their special themes, and a conscientious gathering of their subject-matter from the several by-places of legal and family history. They abound in strange stories, in striking situations, in marvellous crimes, —all of which are told or presented in a plain way, with no rhetorical exaggeration, and with no false colouring caught from the fancies of the authors. These are their merits. On the other side, we do not feel that everything has been done which might have been done with the materials brought together. A deeper dramatic instinct would have suggested a different grouping of some of the many figures here presented to the reader, —a more consummate literary art would have led to a different development of several of the stories. Such a story-teller as he who gave us the '*Crimes Célèbres*' would probably have told more than one tale recorded in these volumes so that it would have haunted the recollection like the story of Vaninka, or the yet more powerful tale of the Marchioness de Ganges. But, seemingly from an over-scrupulous fear of touching the old forms in which they found their romantic stories, our authors have denied

themselves all the advantages to be gained by re-casting their materials. Neither do the Messrs. Burke seek out in the annals of crime, and in the singular episodes of family history, those deeper philosophies which a Feuerbach would have extracted with such skill, or those illustrations of fugitive and varying manners which often throw a sudden light into the dark corners of a nation's story.

After this much of common characterization, we need not detain the reader from the perusal of such extracts as we have marked by special criticism. '*Family Romance*' gathers its subjects from the literary labours of Mr. Bernard Burke —labours which have found their more complete expression in the standard books of reference which bear his name. Mr. Peter Burke has found his subjects in law records and criminal trials. Our first extract shall tell how the Scotts of Thirlestane came to beggary. It is taken from '*Family Romance*.' —

"Sir Robert's second wife was an unprincipled woman, of vindictive temper, and fierce passions; and by her he had several children. This woman had all the qualities calculated to make an oppressive and cruel step-dame; and accordingly her jealousy was excited by the fond affection which Sir Robert displayed towards his eldest son. She knew that his rich inheritance would descend to him, while her own sons would receive a very slender provision; besides, her husband's excessive attachment to his eldest son gave her no hope of his being persuaded to alienate from him any portion of the family property. Her jealousy accordingly grew into a disease, and her mind was distracted with rage and mortification. These feelings were still further aggravated, when Sir Robert built the Tower of Gamesleugh, and adorned that property with all manner of embellishments, as the future residence of his eldest son, who was now about to come of age, and for whom he had arranged a suitable and advantageous matrimonial alliance with a beautiful young lady of high birth. The step-mother now lost all patience, and was firmly resolved to compass the destruction of her hated step-son. The mason-work of the new Castle of Gamesleugh was completed on the young Laird's twentieth birth-day, which was held as a high festival at Thirlestane. The lady resolved that his hours should now be numbered; and she accordingly prepared, on the intended festival, to execute her horrid purpose. She had already secured in her interest the family piper, whose name was John Lally. This man procured threeadders, from which he selected the three replete with the most deadly poison, and having ground them to a fine powder, Lady Thirlestane mixed them in a bottle of wine. Previous to the commencement of the feast at Thirlestane, the young Laird went over the Etterick River to Gamesleugh, to inspect the finished work, and to regale the masons and other work-people, who had exerted themselves to have the Castle walls completed by his birthday. He was attended by John Lally. In the midst of the entertainment of the workmen, the young Laird called for wine to drink their healths; and John filled his silver cup from the poisoned bottle, which the ill-fated youth hastily drank off. The piper immediately left the castle, as if to return home. —But he was never more seen. The most diligent search failed in discovering him; and it is supposed that he escaped across the English border. Young Thirlestane was instantaneously taken violently ill, and such was the force of the poison that he swelled and burst within an hour. The news was immediately carried to Thirlestane, where a large party of the kith and kin of Scott had assembled to do honour to the festival. But it may easily be conceived what a woeful gathering it turned out to be. With one accord, the guests felt and said that the young Laird was poisoned, but were unable to conceive who could have done so foul a deed to one so universally beloved. The old baron immediately caused a bugle to be blown, as a signal to all the family to assemble in the castle court. He then inquired 'Are we all here?' A voice from the crowd answered 'All but the piper, John Lally!' This sounded like a knell in the ears of Sir Robert. He knew the confidence which his lady placed in this

servant and the son his shock deprived utter answer to do Lally, time, difficult noble. to see. However most the case he could would he more of depre she body with state whole welcom And actual the w at Th of the last th were of Sc the r fields and burn vault coffin which and when the Robe utter died W curio pass From follow Gad' a stor "C immo explo place they famo by on bay m o'clock Hill, wards a boar an ho self o been count about give Bock Caml he pa Strat fresh at fu Here went comp other happ of Y tary, order an op

servant. His eyes were at once open to the foul deed, and the conviction that his most dear and beloved son had been slain by the machinations of his wife, shocked his feelings so terribly that he was almost deprived of reason. He stood very long in a state of utter stupefaction, and then began to repeat the answer which he had received. And this he continued to do for several days. "We are all here but John Lally, the piper!" Sir Robert lived in a lawless time, justice was not rightly administered, and it was difficult to punish the crimes of the powerful and noble. Moreover, Sir Robert could not be induced to seek to make a public example of his own wife. However, he adopted a singular and complete, though most unjust method of vengeance. He said that the estate belonged of right to his son, and that since he could not bestow it upon him while living, he would, at least spend it upon him when dead. And he moreover expressed great satisfaction at the idea of depriving his lady and her offspring of that which she had played so foul a part to secure to them. The body of the young Laird was accordingly embalmed with the most costly drugs and spices, and lay in state at Thirlstone for a year and a day; during the whole of which time Sir Robert kept open house, welcoming and royally feasting all who chose to come. And in this way of reckless and wanton profusion he actually spent or mortgaged his entire estate. While the whole country, high and low, were thus feasting at Thirlstone, the lady was kept shut up in a vault of the castle, fed upon bread and water. During the last three days of this extraordinary feast, the crowds were immense. It was as if the whole of the south of Scotland was assembled at Thirlstone. Butts of the richest and rarest wines were carried into the fields; their ends were knocked out with hatchets, and the liquor was carried about in stoups. The burn of Thirlstone literally ran red with wine. The vault where the young Laird was interred, in a leaden coffin, is under the roof of the church of Eterick, which is distant from Thirlstone upwards of a mile; and so numerous was the funeral procession, that when the leaders had reached the church, those in the rear had not nearly left the castle gates. Sir Robert died soon after this, and left his family in utter destitution. It is said that his wicked lady died in absolute beggary."

We have been tempted to give more than one curious ghost-story from this book;—but must pass on to the volumes of Mr. Peter Burke. From these we borrow an anecdote or two. The following account of a highwayman's ride from Gad's Hill to York seems to be the original of a story very famous in the north of England.—

"Gad's Hill, between Rochester and Gravesend, immortalized by Shakespeare as the scene of the exploits of Sir John Falstaff, was formerly a noted place for the plunder by violence of seamen after they had received their pay at Chatham. Here a famous robbery was committed about the year 1676 by one Nicks. This Nicks, mounted on a splendid bay mare, stopped and pilfered a traveller at four o'clock in the morning just at the declivity of Gad's Hill, and then rode off to Gravesend (as he afterwards confessed). From the difficulty of procuring a boat so early, he was detained at Gravesend nearly an hour. Though chagrined at this, he availed himself of the time to bait his horse. Having at last been conveyed over the river, he rode across the county of Essex to Chelmsford: here he stopped about half an hour to again refresh his steed and give it some balls. Then on he went to Bembro', Boeking, and Wetherfield: then over the downs to Cambridge: thence, keeping always the cross roads, he passed Godmanchester and Huntingdon by Fenny Stratford, where he baited his horse, took some refreshment, and slept about half an hour. Once more started, he proceeded upon the north road, and riding at full speed arrived at York the same afternoon. Here Nicks changed his clothes, and walking out, went to a bowling green, where he mixed with the company as an inhabitant of the place. Among the other gentlemen present at the amusement, there happened to be the Lord Mayor himself of the city of York. Nicks immediately singled out this dignitary, and contrived to do something particular in order that he might remember him. He then seized an opportunity of inquiring of his lordship the hour

it was. The latter, pulling out his watch, told him it was a quarter before eight. Some time after, Nicks was apprehended and prosecuted for the robbery. At the trial, the whole merit of the case turned upon the *alibi* set up. The person who had been robbed, in detailing the offence, swore to the man, the place, and the time. But Nicks had the Lord Mayor of York to prove that he was in his city at a certain time, and the jury acquitted him on the supposition that it was impossible a person could be in two places so remote from each other on the same day."

Here, again, is a curious incident from the romance of crime.—

"A gentleman had been staying on a visit with the baronet in question, and when leaving, behaved very liberally to the domestics, having distributed amongst them a more than usual amount of money. He was to proceed on his journey alone on horseback, and just as he was putting his foot in the stirrup to start, the groom, who assisted him, and had been a sharer in his bounty, contrived to approach him closely and whisper unperceived this warning in his ear: 'See if your pistols be loaded as soon as you are gone beyond the domain.' The gentleman while riding on forthwith did so, and to his astonishment found that the charges had been withdrawn. He at once reloaded the weapons, placing a bullet in each. By night-time he reached Wrotham Heath, and on coming upon it, he was stopped by a masked and mounted highwayman, who rode up to him fearlessly and levelled a pistol at his head, intimating that he must have his money. The gentleman fired instantly in self-defence, and his assailant fell dead. To gallop to the nearest habitation and give the alarm, was the work of a few minutes on the part of the traveller. He returned with men and lights to the spot, when, on taking the mask from the bleeding corpse of the highwayman, he, to his horror, discovered him to be no other than the son of the baronet whose hospitality he had so recently been enjoying: this son had of course been one of his friendly and social companions during his stay. An inquest was held, when it was found out that it was indeed the baronet's son—a gambler ruined by play—who had been in the custom of adopting this nefarious plan for recruiting his finances: he was the robber of his father's guests. When the inquest ended, the matter was carefully hushed up, and it passed into oblivion; but traditionary report connects a still more startling fact with this affair. It is handed down that this gamester and highwayman was a high dignitary of the church of Ireland."

On the whole, these are pleasant books—easy to read, and easy to lay down when necessary,—and, therefore, the very reading for seaside and fireside in our hours of idleness.

Public Education as affected by the Minutes of the Committee of Privy Council from 1846 to 1852; with Suggestions as to Future Policy.
By Sir J. K. Shuttleworth, Bart. Longman & Co.

THE duty of educating the masses of the people was transferred by the Reformation from the clergy to the congregation,—and in all those countries which embraced the doctrines of Luther or joined in his protests the tendency of opinion, from the sixteenth century downwards, has been towards a final separation of conscience from all the trammels of civil power. Hence arises a difficulty to those who are not prepared to accept a purely secular system of instruction. Parliament has repealed, one after another, various kinds of religious tests. It has done so on the broad principle that the law has no authority over conscience—that a man's belief is a thing apart from his ordinary social relations. Of course, the logical consequence of this principle—the legitimate end of this tendency of European sentiments—is, secular education in its larger sense. But, in the mean time, it is a question with those who admit the principle without having as yet arrived at the conclusion—how to preserve the religious character of public instruction otherwise than by

a return to the old notions,—without, in fact, surrendering the education of the people into the hands of the priesthood?

This is the question which Sir J. K. Shuttleworth undertakes to discuss and decide in the volume now before us. In seven interesting chapters he goes pretty well over the whole ground of controversy, and in a large appendix he supplies copies or extracts of a number of important documents all bearing on the question. In substance, his proposals are identical with those of Lord John Russell, already described by us at sufficient length.

The chapter which contains the greatest number of interesting facts for ordinary readers is that on the present and possible administration of our charitable trusts for purposes of public education. As we have formerly stated, the previous Parliamentary Reports on charitable trusts fill 38 volumes. From a digest to one of these Reports, it appears, that the Commissioners, when looking into the revenues of these foundations, ascertained that they owned no less than 442,915 acres of land. Much of this land being in the immediate vicinity of towns, Mr. Senior—who has acted for seventeen years as one of the Masters in Chancery who have been charged with the judicial administration of charities, and is therefore a competent authority,—calculates that this land is worth on the average 100*l.* per acre. Sir J. K. Shuttleworth confirms this estimate. If it be not above the mark, the land alone invested in charities is worth upwards of forty-four millions two hundred and ninety thousand pounds. To this immense estate must be added the value of the houses and their sites—these not being included in Mr. Senior's average,—and the same judicial authority estimates these at 63,000 in number, worth, on a fair computation, 200*l.* each—in all twelve millions six hundred thousand pounds. Some other items of property could be returned by the Commissioners at their exact figures,—such, for example, as mortgages, turnpike bonds, personal property, stock in public securities; these were set down at a total of 6,668,527*l.* Putting these three sums together, we have a grand total of an estate—in great part reservable for educational purposes—worth more than sixty-three and a half millions. But, as is well known, many of our charities altogether escaped the inquiries of the Commissioners,—and if we add these latter to the three already reported on, Sir J. K. Shuttleworth thinks that "the total value may be safely estimated at 75,000,000*l.*"

These returns show the vast importance of that part of Lord John Russell's speech in which he hinted at some attempt being made on the part of Government to recover the uses of these charitable revenues for general education. A reform in the abuses of these old foundations is one of those causes in which we have laboured long and earnestly,—and our readers have learned from time to time of such particular instances of abuse as came within our knowledge, and seemed to press with more than usual vehemence for such redress as lies in exposure and rebuke. In these returns, however, we obtain a full summary expressive of the amount of abuse and mal-administration.

Assuming, as we may fairly do, that the trust property is worth the 75,000,000*l.* at which Sir J. K. Shuttleworth sets it down—at three per cent. interest it would yield a yearly income of 2,250,000*l.* Instead of this large sum, we are told that the income of the charities is only 1,209,395*l.*—a little more than half. Of the manner in which the funds are wasted we get occasional glimpses in this work and in the Parliamentary Reports, in spite of the secrecy observed by those more immediately interested in concealing the facts from public criticism.

Here are two cases, given on the authority of Mr. Senior.—

"In the case of the Attorney-General v. Nethercoat, the income of Charity property worth about 3,000*l.* had been misapplied in payment of poor-rates and church-rates. An information was filed in the Court of Chancery, and a long litigation ensued; the expenses of which, from time to time, was partially defrayed by sales of portions of the property. At length, a final decree was made, which declared that the income of the charity ought in future to be applied for the benefit of the poor not receiving relief from the rates—removed the existing trustees—and directed the further costs to be raised by sale or mortgage, and a scheme to be framed for the application of the residuary income. The property now remaining was an estate producing 105*l.* a year. The unsatisfied costs amounted to 2,000*l.* That sum was raised by mortgage at 4½ per cent. There remains therefore, for the purposes of the charity, 15*l.* a year, being about one tenth of the original income!—In another case, an information was filed to ascertain, among other things, the boundaries of charity lands. A hedge had been grubbed up, and the land taken in by a neighbouring occupier. The site of the hedge was worth about 20*l.* Two hundred pounds were spent in ascertaining whether it belonged to the charity or to the owner of the adjoining freehold."

It may be stated as the result of experience, that litigation is the certain ruin of any charity of small amount. Mr. Senior has said,—"It may be laid down as a general rule, that the instant a charity not exceeding 30*l.* a-year becomes the subject of a suit, it is gone; one of 60*l.* a-year is reduced one-half; one of 100*l.* a-year one-third." This proves the absolute necessity for a change in the law on the subject—such as we understand the Government propose to introduce—for it is clear that the best friends of a charity will at present submit to any infringement of its right, to any mal-administration short of absolute ruin, rather than seek the protection of a Court which must swallow it up in legal expenses.

A Visit to Mexico, by the West India Islands, Yucatan, and United States. By W. P. Robertson. Simpkin & Co.

Robertson's book—and we remember reading his 'Letters on South America' with interest—derive their value from the fact, that their author is a man well acquainted with the topics on which he writes. For many years he was a resident in Spanish America,—he is thoroughly conversant with the languages and *patois* there in use,—and he has the means of getting at such information respecting the country, its affairs, resources, and future prospects, as its best informed men can impart. His narrative, however, is tedious to a degree bordering on absolute unreadableness. His style is that of the counting-house, without the method that prevails in Mark Lane or in Lombard Street. There is an entire want of social and literary perspective in his work. All his facts appear of the same degree of importance; so that, the details of a dinner occupy about an equal space with a review of the great questions affecting the existence of Mexico as an independent nation.

We have not turned over these pages without gaining some better notion of Mexico than we had before,—but we have not found a single paragraph in that part of the volume which treats of her people, fit for extract. There are plenty of statistics of more or less interest to those who watch the course of politics on the American Continent—who for years past have seen the Washington eagles turn their eyes steadily towards the south, now snatching at Mexico, now incorporating California, and threatening every moment to annex the whole republic; but no pictures of men and

things, no adventures worth relating, no pithy remarks or philosophical reflections. The only part of the book having a real interest for ordinary readers is, perhaps, the account of Yucatan:—a part of America very little known, but towards which a good deal of interest has lately been attracted in consequence of its offering itself as a possible cause of complication between this country and the United States. On this subject Mr. Robertson furnishes some valuable information. Our extract is long; but it may be convenient to our readers to have the story, which explains the state of the country and the recent measures of our Government, in full. According to our authority,—

"In 1821 or 1822, Mexico achieved its independence of Spain, and Yucatan followed. But the Yucatecos had scarcely emancipated themselves from the mother country, when they voluntarily sunk their newly-acquired nationality in a fusion with Mexico, as a federal state of that nation. This measure being distasteful to a large proportion of the Yucatecos, particularly to the uneasy, and not generally well-to-do party—the ultra-patriots; the result was, that they rose up against the Mexican Union; asserted their own independence as a free republic; and a war with Mexico ensued. In 1841-42, a great expedition was fitted out at Vera Cruz, for the purpose of subjugating Yucatan. Campechy, their great and principal port, was invested by sea and land, and I am told here, that the siege was undertaken with 13,000 men. Probably we must make some allowance for patriotic exaggeration. But, be that as it may, all the exertions to reduce the doughty Campechanos by the Mexicans were of no avail. These bombarded the city from a neighbouring height; they levelled many houses with the ground; they made some impression on the walls; yet, at the end of nine or ten months, Campechy remained in the hands of its gallant defenders; the Mexican force dwindled away from thirteen to one thousand men (so I am told); and then Mexico, withdrawing the remnant of her invading force, formally relinquished all pretensions to coerce Yucatan into a federal union. This success of the Yucatecos was, perhaps, the leading cause of the most terrible of all evils under which a nation of races can groan—a social war, a war of castes, which overtook Yucatan in a frightful form, towards the close of 1846. But to make an account of the rising of the Indians intelligible, I must revert to the establishment of Independence here in 1822. That change brought into play in Yucatan, as a similar change has done in every other ex-colony of Spain, without exception, two violently antagonistic parties—those who *had* property and those who *had not*. The higher classes; the merchants, the great landowners, the substantial retail traders; the prudent, the wary, the aged, the sedate; were all either moderates in their politics, or, here secretly, there openly, opposed to the cause of independence. They alleged, with too much truth, that the Spanish colonies were not ripe for self-government. Among the Patriots, a party which greatly outnumbered the opposite one, you counted the young, the ardent, the needy, the military, the unscrupulous, with here and there an honest, but, probably, not a wise lover of his country. On the one side were ranged all those who were content with what they had, looking only to enjoy it in security; on the other, the great mass of those who had little to lose, or who had much ambition to gratify, and who saw in the popular cause a tempting chance of bettering their circumstances, or of rising into pre-eminence. The fear of loss withheld the one, the hope of gain impelled the other. Over and above the opposing Creole parties in politics, Yucatan held within its territory, in the aborigines, another germ of strife. The dominating white population was scanty—the subjugated Indian race numerous; perhaps, four or five to one. Although bent beneath the Spanish yoke, the aborigines never ceased to hate their conquerors and oppressors. The whites, however, were too strong in their civilization and physical superiority to fear their cowed, diminutive, and untutored serfs. Yet the masters were not ignorant that when opportunity served, the will was not wanting, on the part of the Indian, to assert

his original right to the land. From the commencement of the Independence, the Yucatecos were aware that their well-being consisted in looking with caution to the Indian population, even although they had been habituated to treat that race with contempt. Yet, the political animosities of the whites among themselves led them, first indirectly, and at last openly, into the danger which they ought jealously to have avoided. The Patriots were against an amalgamation with Mexico; the conservative party was for it. In their endeavours to upset the federation with Mexico, and to establish a nationality of their own, the Patriots gradually began to lean on the Indians, and to cry up their importance in the state. The Indians were not inattentive listeners. At length, the Patriots got the upper hand—expelled the Mexicans, and became independent. They were invaded by a Mexican force, and repelled it, as we have seen; but to do so effectually, the government had recourse to the desperate measure of calling in the most warlike of the Indians to their aid. Arms were put into their hands, and they were taught how to use them. Now, the Indian groaned under many grievous burthens imposed upon him by the white man; and accordingly a profusion of promises were made to him of amelioration and recompense, provided the Mexicans were forced to abandon Yucatan to its own independent government. Such, in fact, was the result, and the Indian did good service in bringing it about. He naturally claimed his reward, so solemnly promised him: but the dangers were past—the promises were evaded, or their fulfilment postponed; and so, the Indian tribes were allowed to return to their homes in the far east, with acquired knowledge in military tactics, with arms in their hands, and, withal, smarting under the faithless return made to them for their gallant and effective services rendered to the State. In 1846, local dissensions in politics ran so high, that the provinces of Merida and Campechy came to blows. In the mean time, the Indians were preparing to rise. The people of Merida sent forces to overawe them, and demanded a contingent from Campechy. 'It is a political juggle,' said the Campechanos; 'there is no rise of the Indians: Merida wishes to get us into her power.' So they refused to assist. But, by and by, the tables were turned: the province of Campechy was threatened, and appealed to Merida: but Merida replied to Campechy as Campechy had answered Merida. So, the Indians, emboldened by these divisions, fell upon the provinces of Tekaz and Valladolid on the eastern side of Yucatan, took the towns, and, with fire and sword, devastated the country; and then, too late, the Yucatecos saw, with fear and trembling, the result of a supine conduct following upon the track of broken promises. They saw that they were now about to engage in a life and death struggle for the possession of a soil, of which their forefathers had held peaceable possession for three hundred years. The Yucatecos were taken quite by surprise by the vigorous outbreak of the despised and hitherto humble Indians. But ages, apparently, had been insufficient to uproot the deep hatred with which the great body of the aborigines had always viewed their European spoilers—a hatred which had been so recently sharpened by unwarrantable bad faith, and by a return to ill usage on the part of the whites. Thus the war, which they began to wage, was one, not only of extermination, but of pitiless cruelty, of savage and ferocious revenge. Men, women, and children were massacred with every variety of ingenious torture. Villages, towns, and cities were burnt or demolished; and the whole north-eastern division of the republic presented one vast scene of devastation or ruin. The troops of the government became panic-stricken, and everywhere dispersed. Terror extended itself on all sides: the people, abandoning their homes and their strong-holds, sought for safety in a flight to the sea-coast. Valladolid, a city of 12,000 inhabitants, and Tekaz, of 5,000 more, were abandoned; and gradually the whole interior seemed to be returning to its original owners. The individual instances of horrors committed during the progress of the Indians have been related to me by many, but are too sickening to be repeated here. While the Indians were thus gradually, yet surely, overpowering the white or Creole population of Yucatan, the people sought for aid from their surrounding neighbours. But both the

United States and Mexico were too busy with their own war, to embarrass themselves with the troubles of Yucatan. The sovereignty of the country, as I have been assured, was proffered to the British authorities at Jamaica, and to the Spanish at Cuba, a donation which, I suppose, neither of the governors found himself in a position to accept. But although the Spanish authorities refused, on the part of Spain, to take back the allegiance which the Yucatecos had sworn, the Governor of the Havana, from motives of humanity, sent succours in the shape of arms and ammunition, which were sorely wanted. And Mexico, having at length made peace with the United States, admitted the offer of the commissioners sent to propose the re-incorporation of Yucatan with the Mexican nation. Arms and war-munitions, as well as money, were sent, and at last the Yucatecos began to take heart. It was now the time to try whether the Indians or the whites were to have the absolute possession of the soil. There was no medium—Yucatan must belong entirely to the one, or entirely to the other; and if to the Indian, the white man's life and property became equally worthless. The whole white population, therefore, rose up and armed. They attacked the Indians, routed them in successive engagements, and retrieved their ground. At one time, the Indians were in some force, three miles from Campeachy, but they were quickly driven back. The towns and cities taken by them were recaptured, and they were gradually, although with much difficulty, dislodged from their principal points of advance, and driven towards their fastnesses in the east, bordering on the British settlement of Belize."

The war is not, however, at an end. The natives still keep up the struggle:—they even hold some important towns and strongholds. There is something so mournful in the long story of aboriginal wrong—the insurrection is one in which a native poet might find so many glories,—that the mind of the reader feels, in spite of his own leanings and sympathies in favour of the European population, that there is a sort of poetical justice in the retributions here recorded. It seems doubtful whether there can ever be a durable peace and a firm government in Yucatan—or indeed in Mexico generally—until a firmer hand shall seize the reins of power. Mr. Robertson appears to consider—though he does not say so in express terms—that the only alternative for Mexico is, such an alliance with England as will amount to a Protectorate, or absorption into the United States. He himself desires the former; and the purpose of his volumes—if they have any distinct purpose—is, to show that an Anglo-Mexican alliance is possible in itself, and would be profitable to both countries.

Sam Slick's Wise Saws and Modern Instances; or, What he said, did, or invented. 2 vols. Hurst & Blackett.

In three of the cardinal qualities out of the four which make up a perfect droll, Sam Slick is unrivalled:—these are, persistence, resource, impudence. The untiring spirits of the veriest bore that ever conceived himself "the life and soul" of a water-party or of a long day at Epsom, by degrees end in getting their audience. Some acquiesce in his jokes out of exhaustion,—others in wonderment at the apparatus which can go on for such a length of time with only one "winding up." Our author has the incessant spirits without the brainless pertinacity referred to. Then, for resource:—the *tombola* without legs sold by Como image-venders—which, fling it about as you will, must roll itself right, and end in subsiding head uppermost—is not more invincible than the Clockmaker. Capt. Marryat's most wonderful hero—Mrs. Crewe's *Susan Hopley*—are not more consummately fitted up with arms and arts for every emergency than this Sam Slick. Let him go a mackerel-fishing, or to court in England—let him venture alone among a tribe of

the sauciest single women that ever banded themselves together in electric chain to turn tables, or to mystify man,—our hero always manages to come off with flying colours—to beat every craftsman in the cunning of his own calling—to get at the heart of every maid's and matron's secret—to answer a fool according to his folly, and a gentleman with a gentility which has a feather more in its cap than the gentleman's own. Thirdly and lastly, as to impudence:—we have had the pleasure of seeing it take many shapes in authorship,—such as, condescension, modesty, cajolery, dashing at assertions without data,—but we question if self-praise—genuine or dramatic—ever finished off "home virtue" in a picture more neat, complete, and conclusive than the one contained in the penultimate paragraph of this miscellany, which serves for its epilogue.—

"Well, Mr. Slick," said Eldad, "you are the man for my money, arter all. You talk the most sense and the most nonsense of any person I ever see. You play with the galls, take rises out of the men, tell stories by the hour, and seem made on purpose for rollicken. On the other hand, no danger scares you, and no difficulty stops you. No other man would have got out of that scrape but yourself."

—In further illustration of the last characteristic, we may further call attention to the italics in which "the wise saws" of the wise man of Slickville are set forth as precious sayings. In order that the world may value them as they deserve, he insinuates their merit and sagacity into his audience by the aid of the printer's composing-stick and the type-founder's artillery.

Whether the book before us be better or worse than its predecessors—whether the Clockmaker be given "to ripe or to rot" as Time advances him in the wickedness of authorship—whether he may claim that fourth attribute of a droll, which renders the grotesque being an immortal member of *Pantagruel's* fraternity,—are not matters of immediate concern. The book before us—an odd, unfinished miscellany, chiefly telling what befell Sam Slick on a fishing cruise,—will be read and laughed over. Its quaint and racy dialect will please some readers,—its abundance of "yarns" will amuse others. Here and there a simple soul will find its sentimental bits "truly refreshing." For ourselves, the Clockmaker is most to our taste when he is savage, sly, or severe. The following, for instance, is a picture which we commend to ingenious persons going to sea from remote ports.—

"You hear a fellow sayin' sometimes—I'm only a passenger. How little the critter knows of what he is talking, when he uses that cant phrase. Why, everythin is sum-totalized in that word. Skipper is employed, and you aint. It's his vocation, and not yours. It's his cabin, and no one else's. He is to hum, and you aint. He don't want you, but you want him. You aint in his way, if you don't run like a dog between his legs, and throw him down; but he is in your way, and so is everybody else. He likes salt pork, clear sheer as he calls it, and smacks his lips over it, and enjoys his soup, that has fat and grease enough swimmin' on it to light a wick, if it was stuck in it; and cracks hard biscuits atween his teeth, till they go off like pistols; makes a long face when he says a long grace, and swears at the steward in the midst of it; gets shaved like a poodle dog, leaving one part of the hair on, and takin' the other half off, lookin' all the time half-tiger, half-lurcher, and reserves this fancy job to kill time of a Sunday. Arter which he hums a hymn through his nose, to the tune the 'Old Cow died of,' while he straps his razor, pulls a hair out of his head, and mows it off, to see if the blade is in trim for next Sabbath. You can't get fun out of him, for it aint there, for you can't get blood out of a stump, you know; but he has some old sea-saws to poke at you. If you are squeamish, he offers you raw fat bacon, advises you to keep your eyes on the masthead, to

cure you of dizziness, and so on. If the wind is fair, and you are in good spirits, and say, 'We're getting on well, captain,' he looks thunder and lightning and says, 'If you think so, don't say so, Broadcloth, it aint lucky.' And if it blows like great guns, and is ahead, and you say, 'It's unfortunate, aint it?' he turns short round on you and says, in a riporous voice, 'Do you think I'm clerk of the weather, Sir? If you do, you are most particularly, essentially, and confoundedly mistaken, that's all.' If you voted for him, perhaps you have interest with him; if so, tell him, 'The storm staysail is split to ribbons, and you'll trouble him for another; and then he takes off his norwester, strikes it agin the binnacle to knock the rain off, and gig goggles like a great big turkey-cock. If you are writin' in the cabin, he says, 'By your leave,' and without your leave, whops down a great yellor chart on the table, all over your papers, unrolls it, and sticks the corners down with forks, gets out his compasses, and works his mouth accordin' to its legs. If he stretches out its prongs, out go the corners of his mouth proportionally; if he half closes them, he contracts his ugly mug to the same size; and if he shuts them up, he pusses up his lips, and closes his clam-shell too. They have a sympathy, them two, and work together, and they look alike, too, for one is brown with tobacco, and the other with rust. The way he writes up the log then is cautionary. The cabin aint big enough for the operation, out go both legs, one to each side of the vessel; the right arm is brought up scientific like, in a semi-circular sweep, and the pen fixed on the paper solid, like a gate-post; the face and mouth is then all drawn over to the left side to be out of the way, and look knowing, the head throwed a one side, one eye half closed, and the other wide open, to get the right angles of the letters, and see they don't foul their cables, or run athwart each other."

In our next extract is a touch of slyness, gaily winding up a long scene of circumvention betwixt the Clockmaker and the proprietor of a Patent Medicine. Sam's specific is not of the newest, it is true; but he knows how to suit practice to theory, and serves it up so prettily that the old joke glides easily down.—

"Now, Mr. Slick, have you any more medical secrets of natur'?"—"I have," said I. "I can cure the jaundice in a few days, when doctors can make no fist of it, any how they can fix it; and the remedy is on every farm, only they don't know it. I can cure in an hour or two that awful ague in the face, that folks, and specially women are subject to; and can make skin grow when it is broken on the shin-bone, and other awkward places, even in the case of an old man, that doctors only make wus; and effect a hundred other cures. But that's neither here nor there, and I aint a-goin' to set up for a doctor; I didn't come to brag, but to larn. That is a great herbal cure you have got hold of tho'—that's a fact," said I. "What are you going to call it?"—"Sure and safe remedy for the dropsy," said he. "You won't sell a bottle," said I. "Simples will do very well inside (and the simpler they are the safer they be), but not outside of patent medicines. Call it 'the Vegetable Anasarca Specific,' an easy, safe, pleasant, and speedy cure for anasarca, or dropsy in the skin; the ascites, or dropsy in the stomach; the hydrops pectoris, or dropsy in the breast; and the hydrocephalus, or dropsy of the brain. Put the first in gold letters on the labels, the second in green, the third in pink, and the fourth in blue. You must have a fine name to please the ear, a nice-looking bottle to please the eye, and somethin' that is perfumed and smells nice to please the nose. But everything is in a name. When I was to Windsor, Nova Scotia, I met an old nigger; which we call a Chesapeake nigger, one of them Admiral, Sir John Warren, was fool enough to give Bluenose to support. I was then about three miles out of the village. 'Well Cato Cooper,' aint I, 'What little church is that standin' there?'—'Dat nigger church, massa,' said he. 'BUILT a purpose for niggers.'—'Well I hope you go often?'—'Dat is jist what I do, massa. College students preach dere, and dere is one ob de most beautifullest preachers 'mong 'em you eber did hear respond a text. Oh! he splains it rail hand-some. Nebber was nuffin like it, his sarmon is more nor half Latin and Greek, it are beautiful to hear,

there aint a nigger in de settlement don't go to listen to him; its rail dictionary. He converted me. I is a Christian now, since I know all blacks are to be received into de kitchen ob Heaven."—"Now that nigger is a sample of mankind, big words look larned, and please them."—"Well, I have a theory about that," said the quick captain. "Mankind are gullible, that's a fact, they'll swaller anything amost, if you only know how to talk 'em into it; that's the only secret how to persuade 'em. Mankind lives on promises."—"Well," said I, "gullible means taking things down like gulls, and they are awful hungry birds. They go screamin about the mud flat of the river in the basin of Minas, like mad, and swaller a whole herring one after another without winkin'; and now and then a clam, shell and all, as fowls do gravel to help digestion, but cover a herring over with your nasty stuff, and see if they wouldn't scream loud enough to wake the dead amost. You must treat men as you would children. Tell them to shut their eyes and open their mouths and take what you give them, as you do when you play with the little dears, and as long as it is sweet and pleasant they will swaller anythin'."

From the discourse on married life which follows, it might be surmised that Sam Slick has been keeping company with the sardonic author of 'Esmond.'—

"*Hope!* what is hope? expectin' some unsartin thing or another to happen. Well, sposen it don't happen, why then there is a nice little crop of disappointment to digest, that's all. What's the use of hopen at all then? I never could see any use under the sun in it. That word ought to be struck out of every dictionary. I'll tell Webster so, when he gets out a new edition of his'n. Love is painted like a little angel, with wings, and a bow and arrow, called Cupid—the name of mother's lap-dog. Many's the one I've painted on clocks, little, chubby-checked, onmeanen, fat, lubberly, critters. I suppose it typifies that love is a fool. Yes, and how he does fool folks, too. Boys and galls fall in love. The boy is all attention and devotion, and the galls all smiles, and airs, and graces, and pretty little winnin' ways, and they bill and coo, and get married because they *hope*. Well, what do they *hope*? Oh, they hope they will love all the days of their lives, and they hope their lives will be ever so long just to love each other; its such a sweet thing to love. Well, they hope a great deal more I guess. The boy hopes arter he's married his wife will smile as sweet ever and twice as often, and be just as neat and twice as neater, her hair lookin like part of the head, so tight, and bright, and glossy, and parted on the top like a little path in the forest. A path is a sweet little thing, for it seems made a purpose for courtin, it is so lonely and retired. Natur teaches its use, he says, for the breeze as it whisks kisses the leaves, and helps the flowering shrubs to bend down and kiss the clear little stream that waits in an eddy for it afore it moves on. Poor fellow, he aint spoony at all. Is he? And he hopes that her temper will be as gentle and as meek and as mild as ever; in fact, no temper at all—all amiability—an angel in petticoats. Well, she hopes every minute he has to spare he will fly to her on the wings of love—legs aint fast enough, and running might hurt his lungs, but fly to her—and never leave her, but bill and coo for ever, and will let her will be his law; sartainly wont want her to wait on him, but for him to tend on her, the devoted critter like a heavenly minstreing white he-nigger. Well, don't they hope they may get all this? And do they? Jist go into any house you like, and the last two that talks is these has been lovers. They have said their say, and are tired talking; they have kissed their kiss, and an onion has spiled it; they have strolled their stroll, for the dew is on the grass all day now. His dress is ontidy, and he smokes a short black pipe (he didn't even smoke a cigar before he was married), and the ashes get on his waistcoat; but who cares? it's only his wife to see it—and he kinder guesses he sees wrinkles, where he never saw 'em afore, on her stocking ancles; and her shoes are a little, just a little, down to heel; and she comes down to breakfast, with her hair and dress lookin' as if it was a little more neater, it would be a little more better. He sits up late with old friends, and he lets her go to bed alone; and she

cries, the little angel! but it's only because she has a headache. The heart—oh! there's nothing wrong there—but she is lately troubled with shockin' bad nervous headaches, and can't think what in the world is the cause. The dashing young gentleman has got awful stingy too, lately. He sais houskeepin' costs too much, rips out an ugly word every now and then, she never heard afore; but she hopes—what does the poor dupe hope? Why, she hopes he ain't swearing; but it sounds amazin' like it—that's a fact. What is that ugly word 'dam,' that he uses so often lately? and she looks it out in the dictionary, and she finds 'dam' means the 'mother of a colt.' Well, she hopes to be a mother herself, some day, poor critter! So here hope has ended in her findin' a mare's nest at last."

It has been already indicated that there is something in these two volumes to suit readers of every humour. We do not remember among the Clockmaker's former whimsicalities so minute a Dutch "interior" as the following picture of an old maid's oratory.—

"I paced the floor; it was twenty-two by twenty. The carpet was a square of dark cloth, not so large as the whole floor, and instead of a pattern, had different colored pieces on it, cut out in the shape of birds and beasts, and secured and edged with variegated worsted in chain-stitch. In one corner, stood an old-fashioned eight-day clock, in a black oak case, with enormous gilt hinges. In the opposite one was a closet, made angular to fit the shape of the wall, with a glass front, to preserve and exhibit large silver tankards; Dutch wine-glasses, very high in the stem, made of blue glass, with mugs to match, richly gilt, though shewin' marks of wear, as well as age; a very old china bowl, and so on. In one of the deep recesses formed by the chimney stood an old spinet, the voice of which probably was cracked before that of its mistress, and, like her, had forgot its music. In the other was a mahogany bureau, with numerous drawers, growin' gradually less and less in depth and size, till it nearly reached the ceilin', and terminatin' in a cone, surmounted by a gilt parrot; not a bad emblem for a chatty old lady-bird, who is apt to repeat over and over the same thing. The jambs of the fire-place, which was very capacious, were ornamented with bright glazed tiles, havin' landscapes, representin' windmills, summer-houses in swamps, canal boats, in which you could see nothin' but tobacco-pipes for the smoke, and other Dutch opulent luxuries painted on them. On one side of these was suspended a very long toasin-fork and a pair of bellows; and on the other a worked kettle-holder, an almanac, and a duster made of the wing of a bird. The mantel-piece, which was high, was set off with a cocoa-nut bowl, carved, polished, and supported by three silver feet; an ostrich egg, and a little antique China tea-pot, about as large as a sizable cup. Two large high brass dog-irons, surmounted by hollow balls, supported the fire. The chairs were of mahogany, high and rather straight in the back, which had open cross bar-work. Two of these were arm-chairs, on one of which (Aunt Thankful's own) hung a patch-work bag, from which long knittin'-needles and a substantial yarn-stockin' protruded. All had cushions of crimson cloth, worked with various patterns, and edged with chain-stitch, and intended to match the curtains, which were similar. There was no table in the centre of the room, and but two in it, which were much higher than modern ones, with several little spindly legs to each, makin' up in number what they wanted in size. On the largest stood two old-fashioned cases, with the covers thrown back to exhibit the silver-handled knives, which rose tier above tier, like powdered heads in a theatre, that all might be seen. Beside them was a silver filigree tea-caddy."

With the above fragments, taken at haphazard, we must conclude. Were there much chance of change and progress in an author who has once got the public by the ear, and grown inveterate in "the chace of his own tail,"—we might hope that Mr. Justice Haliburton would some day rally his humours, and digest his matter, and sort his characters, so as to produce some complete work of Art, in place of the peculiar and mannered collections of sketches in which he takes delight. As matters stand,

it is the best philosophy to take what we can get, without over-exquisite grumbling.

Letters and Papers of the Verney Family, down to the End of the Year 1639. Printed from the Original MSS. in the possession of Sir Harry Verney, Bart. Edited by John Bruce, Esq.

[Second Notice.]

THE latter portion of this volume becomes peculiarly interesting and important, from the many characteristic illustrations which it affords of the commencement and progress of that contest between Charles and his people which eventually resulted in the Parliamentary War. We have already seen how distasteful many of the royal enactments were to the rising spirit of his people;—but—

"In the mean time the king vigorously pursued his course of retrogressive government. Churchmen, as in old times, were appointed to several of the highest offices in the state; within the church itself old pretensions to jurisdiction independent of the state were renewed, and old forms and practices which savoured of Rome were restored; old monopolies, abandoned by queen Elizabeth, were re-granted, and new ones introduced to such an extent as to constitute a heavy and annoying tax upon every article in general consumption; ship-money was imposed, an old levy thought to be warranted by precedents of the time of Edward III.; large tracts of land were declared to be forests, and the old attendant grievances of forest laws were revived. These and many other renewals of obsolete oppressions were enforced by means which utterly destroyed the ancient constitutional defences of the subject's freedom. By tampering with the judges the ordinary courts were converted, in crown cases, into mere machines for carrying out the edicts of the sovereign; whilst the jurisdiction of the extraordinary tribunals was stretched arbitrarily so as to convert them into instruments of tyranny and court revenge. Illegal taxes were levied under the authority of council-warrants; proclamations were enforced like acts of parliament; parliaments were no longer summoned; and the courts were no longer courts of justice."

Although Sir Edmund Verney, as Mr. Bruce remarks, "was too closely connected with the Court for us to derive much information respecting the real operation of these from the papers before us," some few evidences slip out. They are found in the Earl of Northampton's warrant before quoted, in the petition of the mayor and townsmen of High Wycombe to Archbishop Laud, and in Lord Goring's letter respecting the monopolies:—all proving how many and deep were the grievances of the country, and how much was endured ere the ultimate appeal to arms was made. Family affairs, however, soon again engross Sir Edmund's attention. Thomas, after playing his kind brother Ralph "a slippery trick, though I had many deepe protestations to the contrary," set off to Barbadoes; from whence he despatched a most carefully-written and dutiful letter to his father, inclosing a goodly list of wants, and, with earnest promises of amendment, giving a very complete description of the produce of the island. The oranges and lemons, limes and plantains, all come in for high commendation, but—

"the next is your potatoes, which is very nourishing and comfortable. It is the best provision we have in the land, both for our selves and servants, but chiefly for them, for they will not desire, after one month or two, noe other provision but potatoes boyled, and mobby to drink with them; and this as we call mobby is only potatoes boyled, and then pressed as hard as they can till all the juce is gone out of the root into flyre water, and after three hours this is good to drink. So we brue in the morning to drink at noon, and att noon to drink at night, and so every day in the yeare."

This praise of the potato for its singularly nutritious qualities, and which the reader will remember was echoed for nearly two hundred

years from its first discovery by the Spaniards, is very remarkable. We know that the root has greatly deteriorated during the last few years,—may it not have been undergoing a similar change, although much slower, for the last hundred years or more? Master Thomas is quite poetical on the subject of the pine-apple, which "King James swore was the apple that Eve cosned Adam with;"—and requesting "two hogsheds of beef, four ferkins of salt butter, two jars of oyle, ten pound of pepper, a pound of nutmeggs, and tenn pound of suger"—the plantation of sugar evidently not having been yet commenced—he closes his long epistle.

We do not find what answer was sent. Sir Edmund was now greatly harassed, not only with his sister-in-law, a gay young widow, who having a handsome jointure was surrounded by admirers, some of whom were courtiers,—but because King Charles was on the eve of setting out for his ill-advised expedition into Scotland, to enforce that uniformity of worship for which he eventually laid down his life. The first note of preparation for this we find in the summons, dated the 7th of February, 1638, to Sir Edmund, charging him to "be in readines in your owne person by the first of Aprill next, att the city of Yorke, as a curassier in russett armes, with guiled studds or nayles, and befittingly horsed, and your seruaut or seruants which shall wayt upon you horst in white armes, after the manner of a hargobusier." This summons was most distasteful to Sir Edmund. The father of a rising family, and not wholly free from pecuniary embarrassments, in infirm health too, he had doubtless hoped that after his long attendance on the Court his last days might pass in quiet at Claydon. But there was a deeper ground of dissatisfaction. Although it would seem that he was a conformist, yet he was far from being favourable to the Established Church. Like Hampden and many others, his Puritan feelings had gradually gained strength; and although he had not openly seceded, he stood ready to welcome the reformation which he trusted was at hand. To such, it was therefore, as Mr. Bruce remarks, "a sorrowful thing to put on 'russett armes, with guiled studds or nayles,' and to leave their homes to enforce upon a neighbouring nation an ecclesiastical system which worked so ill." But "whatever were his private feelings, no other path was open than that of obedience;" so, having made his will, he set off,—his son Edmund having joined the army just before.

The letters here introduced are very interesting. We see the fatal obstinacy of the monarch, and the gradually awakened fears of his followers when they perceived that "there was a strength in the principle for which the Scottish people had taken up arms which defied the influence of the outward braveries of war." The letters which pass between Sir Edmund and his son Ralph are pleasing from their remarkably affectionate character. The father evidently looks upon his son as his best friend; and the earnest warnings and prayers of the son that he will not unnecessarily expose himself to danger, prove that the safety of his father was nearest his heart. Sir Edmund was indeed far from well. There is something almost pathetic in the quaint homeliness of the following passage:—

"I am infinitely afraide of the goute, for I feele crewell twinges, but I hope to starve it awaye, for God willing, I will drinke but once a day. I praye putt your mother in miend to send mee thos papers of powder I gave her to keepe for mee, for they are excellent to prevent the goute. As I came heather I was in soe much hope of a peace that I bought a fine hunting nagg by the waye. I would I had my monny in my purse againe, for I feare I shall not hunt in haste againe. I will send him home to grass by him that brings Godwin. I cannot yett

heare of my armes, but they will come time inoughe, for wee shall doe nothing this moneth yett. I have not heard from any frend since I came heather, although thet comes messenge[r]s daily. Comend mee to thy good wife, and to all my frends with you. Farwell. Your ever loving father, ED. VERNEY.

"Addressed For my sonne Raphe."

In May he thus writes.—

"Our army is but weake, our purse is weaker, and if wee fight with thes foarces, and early in the yeare, wee shall have our throats cutt; and to delaye fighting longe wee cannot, for want of monny to keepe our army together. My lord marshall puttis on the king to fight by all the wayes and means he can possibly devise, dayly urging the king how nearly it concerns him in honnor to punish the rebells, telling that they are weake, and not able to encounter him. Then the king is perswaded to it, toe, from Whithall, with all the industry that can be immagind. The catholiks makes a large contribution, as they pretend, and indeed use all the means and wayes they can to sett us by the ears, and I thinke they will not faile of theyr plott. I darsaye ther was never soe raw, soe unskillfull, and soe unwilling an army brought to fight. My lord marshall himself, I dare saye, will bee safe, and then he cares not what becomes of the rest. Trewly heere are many brave gentlemen that for poynt of honer must runn such a hazard as trewly would greeve any heart but his that does it purposely to ruine them. For my owne parte, I have lived till paine and trouble has made mee weary to doe soe, and the worst that can come shall not bee unwelcome to mee; but it is a pitty to see what men are like to bee slaughtered here, unless it shall pleas God to putt it in the king's hearte to increace his army, or staye till thes may knowe what they doe, for as yett they are as like to kill theyr fellowes as the enmye. I beleewe we shall staye here and att Newcastle till towards the end of Maye."

How characteristic of the want of discipline which lost Marston Moor, is the remark—"they are as like to kill theyr fellowes as the enmye!" The succeeding letters show, too, how hopeless the expedition was. "God send all well, but I now doubt it very much,"—is the sad conclusion of one. As the summer came on, small-pox broke out in the English army, the supplies were inadequate, and insubordination increased. The following letter describes the King's meeting with the deputation.—

"Raphe.—This daye the lords on boath sides have had a meeting. The king, contrary to expectation, went into the tent to them as they began to enter into theyr business, but I thinke it will not hurt the business. The king heard them with patience, and answered with great moderation. This meeting does not give us light inoughe wherby to judg wheather warr or peace shall follow. Thursday next is appointed for a second meeting, and then it maye bee wee maye give a better guess att it. The Scotts have a good army, but farr short of what they have bragd on; trewly I thinke wee shall have the better army, for now our supplies are come to us, wee shall bee able to make really 12,000 foote and 2,200 horse. They will have more foote, but are weake in horse, nor are they so well armed as wee, soe that I thinke they will hardly bee drawne to meeete us in open feeld, and wee have 2,000 foote moore ready att a dayes warning. This messenger is in haste and I have no time to wright to your mother; remember my love to her and to the rest of my frends; and soe with my blessing to thee and thy wife, I rest, your ever loving father, ED. VERNEY.

"From the camp this 11th of June, late att night [1639]."

At length, on the 19th of June, Sir Edmund writes:—"this daye the peace is happily concluded, and much to the King's honer." The joy of the poor infirm knight at this breaks out in every line. He hopes he shall again "goe to the Bathe":—and then follows another letter in which he plunges into the very midst of household affairs.—Mr. Bruce remarks:—

"Thus terminated an expedition which teemed with lessons for Charles I.; but they were lessons which he never learned. Up to this time his course

of misgovernment had been encountered by the adverse votes of parliaments and general assemblies. He now beheld a new phase of the opposition which he had aroused. A portion of his subjects not merely confronted but dared and braved the power of the crown in the open field, whilst those who were nominally the king's supporters never drew a sword on his behalf. The thousands who were arrayed against him were bound together by marvellous unanimity and enthusiasm; on his side there were no lack of show, but neither heart nor zeal. To make peace was all that the king could do, and he therefore made it. * * He merely took advantage of the peace, in order to secure a delay until a more convenient season. In the few weeks which elapsed between his signing the articles of peace and his departure from Berwick, he thoroughly convinced the leaders of his Scottish subjects that he was as much as ever bent upon governing them according to his own notions, without paying the slightest regard to their feelings or opinions; that he was, in fact, plotting the reversal of his concessions at the very moment that he was making them. Unhappy monarch! From first to last this was the cause of his ruin; that he imagined he could bind the whirlwind of the roused popular will with the green withes of a smooth and courtly trickery."

With the close of this year the present selection from the Verney Papers terminates; but we are gratified to find that it will be followed by another volume, bringing down the narrative, both domestic and historical, to the close of 1642. The interest of the book we can scarcely over-rate. While in its domestic details it rivals the graphic pictures which meet us in every page of the Paston Letters, its historical documents claim for it an importance far higher. Mr. Bruce merits the thanks of every student of past times for the able manner in which he has told the story of the Verneys, and for the skill with which he has interwoven so many interesting papers.

The Good Effects and Great Advantages of abstaining from Salt. By John Taylor. Piper & Co. Perkins's tractors, Morison's pills, brandy and salt, cold water and infinitesimal doses, having each in turn surrendered their claims to be the alkabest of humanity,—the ground was once more open to a candidate for the honours of the universal remedy. So long as the public can be persuaded to believe in the possibility of such a thing, so long shall we have to expose the charlatany of those who would take advantage of its weakness. Well, what is the panacea this time? It is nothing positive:—the theory in this case assumes a new form. The evils of humanity are supposed to arise not from some omitted or undiscovered good, but from its ignorant use of an unmitigated evil. This terrible evil is, Salt—raw salt. Let us announce the fact in the words of the discoverer.—

"If man eat of the crude and raw substance of the parent earth, or in any way receive the same into his body, before it has passed through the vegetable state, and so been elaborately altered in its nature, and rendered fit for his nourishment, (by a change which art cannot possibly imitate,) it is exactly as if the child partook of the substance of the body and blood of its mother, before the same had undergone that change which it does in its passage through the mamillary glands, or the breasts; where it is so purified and softened as to render it fit for the nourishment of the child. I say, these two things are effectually the same; for the fruit-bearing vegetation of the earth, is to it exactly what the breast is to the woman. The earth sends forth vegetation on its exterior, which takes up the substance of its body, and presents it in the elaborated form of fruit to its children: so again, the female human body sends forth a fungoid vegetative substance on its exterior, (that is the breasts,) by which its flesh and blood is rendered fit for the nourishment of the child."

Such trash as this—which the author calls the "greatest, noblest, and sublimest idea extant"—would not be worth picking out of the kindred rubbish with which it is assorted, were there not certain good-natured people, to whom we have alluded before, who adopt it as truth, and are thereby injuring the health and hazarding the lives of themselves and their families. To those who are practising this system or hesitating over it we would say a few words. Salt (chemically chloride of sodium) is one of the most universally present of

inorganic substances in the body of animals. The whole mass of marine animals are dependent on it for life. Land animals seek it with avidity. Man flourishes nowhere without it. The most horrible punishment in the prisons of Europe has been, to condemn their tenants to abstinence from salt. It is contained in the blood, the muscles, the nerves, and every solid of the human body,—and if not supplied, the body perishes. In cooking our food we deprive it of what little salt it naturally contains:—hence the paramount necessity for supplying it in its mineral form. Chemically, salt dissolved in water is precisely the same as when contained in plants or animals:—and the attempt at withdrawing salt from the diet as a means of medical treatment is perhaps one of the grossest and most dangerous of the various frauds or follies that have been practised on the human mind in that long story of wickedness and weakness—the history of medical quackery.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

The Shady Side; or, Life in a Country Parsonage. By a Pastor's Wife.—This is a book calculated to excite odd speculations among the controversial:—a tale which might have been undertaken at the instance of some devout lover of deans, prebends, stalls, shovel hats, and the other pomps which link Church with State in England, to show the horrors of the "Voluntary System" in America. According to the "Pastor's Wife," (who is an American lady,) "life in a country parsonage" in "the States" appears to be as pretty a martyrdom as the world has now to show. Privacy is exhibited as invaded by coarse curiosity:—conscience is displayed as sitting within the control of religious dissipation, demanding perpetual pulpit excitement;—service is reported to be repaid by that shabby trickery and self-interested meanness, the detail of which, were it attributed to "the Yankee" (of the stage) by any English tourist, would put "the Union" in a flame. Both the pastor and the pastor's wife are worn down to early graves by the dreary life of misery and undignified trial which is their lot in the "country parsonage." All that can be urged in favour of so dismal a book is, a hope that it is not true as a picture.

An Aide-de-Camp's Recollections of Service in China, &c. By Col. Arthur Cunyngame.—This book relates to the China War concluded ten years ago, and it is to be regretted that Colonel Cunyngame should have thought it necessary to put forward an elaborate publication on a subject long since exhausted;—a publication, moreover, which has no merits of style or of reflection to give it an individual claim to notice.

Money: How to Get, Save, Spend, Give, and Bequeath it, &c. By Edwin T. Freedly; with Additions by John McGregor, Esq. M.P.—Messrs. Partridge & Oakey, of Paternoster-row, have considered it desirable to extend and adapt Mr. Freedly's American book to English tastes and requirements,—and accordingly chapters have been added, by Mr. McGregor and others, on what are supposed to be peculiarly English topics. Adapted in this manner, the book is certainly better suited to English readers than in its purely native form; but whether native or naturalized, it cannot be said with truth that Mr. Freedly has done more than write a pamphlet of which the title-page is the most suggestive section. Mr. Freedly has no new panacea against ill-luck or poverty to reveal,—how should he?—and his chapters in reality amount to no more than amplifications after the manner of a dogmatical American of maxims which "Poor Richard" long ago expressed in language far more to the purpose than any paraphrase.

A View of the Resources of Nations. By H. Fraser, Esq. In Two Parts.—These are two immense and elaborate charts printed on sheets of paper larger than the size of a daily newspaper. The columns are arranged with skill, and the information which they contain has been collected by no trifling expenditure of labour. We fear, however, that to many persons the inconvenience of the form of Mr. Fraser's compilation will be a fatal difficulty.

The Government of December Second—[Le Gouvernement du Deux Décembre, &c.]. By V.

Schœlcher.—The library of the Republican exiles of the military *coup-d'état* in France promises to become large and imposing. We have not noticed all these works, because their topic lies beyond the circle in which we labour; but it may be convenient to some of our readers who do not, like ourselves, avoid politics, if we string together the titles of the principal works which have appeared in explanation and illustration of the events of December, 1851.—Besides M. Schœlcher's former work, '*Les Crimes du Deux Décembre*,' and Victor Hugo's '*Napoléon le Petit*,' both of which are known to our readers, there have been published, *Le Coup d'Etat*, by Xavier Durrien, a book full of most harrowing facts,—*Une Voie d'un Proscrit*, by M. Cahnagne,—*Bonnes Paroles d'un Proscrit Français à ses Concitoyens*, anonymous,—*Les Tables de Proscription de Louis Bonaparte et de ses Complices*, by Pascal Duprat,—*Jeanne; ou, la Famille du Proscrit*, by Eugène Sue,—and two anonymous works written from a royalist point of view: *La Voie Mystérieuse* and *La Veille du Sacre*.—To this list the new volume by M. Schœlcher is a worthy and important addition. The effect of works so minute in detail, so terrible in statement, is, to leave on the mind an almost bewildering sentiment of wonder that, in this century, and in one of the great centres of European education and refinement, such events could have occurred at all.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Arthur's (W. A. M.) *Successful Merchant*, 8th edition, cr. 8vo. 3s. Binney's is it possible to make the best of both Worlds? 7s. 6d. cl. Black's Shilling Guide to the English Lakes, 12mo. 1s. 6d. s. Blackman (Dr.) *The Bible in the Counting-House*, cr. 8vo. 6s. cl. Book of Family Prayers, collected from the Church Library, 8s. 6d. Brace's (C. L.) *Social Life in Germany*, post 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl. Bradley's *Sermons on the Trials of the Christian Life*, 8vo. 10s. 6d. Broun (Dr.) *Evangelist of the Desert*, 2 vols. post 8vo. 5s. cl. Brown (Dr.) *On Religion*, 8th edit. 18mo. 1s. 6d. cl. Buckingham's *Bible in the Middle Ages*, post 8vo. 7s. 6d. cl. Cock's *Sea-Weed Collector's Manual*, fc. 8vo. 2s. 6d. cl. Cole Mont, fc. 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl. Gill's Collins's Series, 'Layburn's Soldier of the Cross,' 18mo. 1s. 6d. s. Cruchley's *New Picture of London*, 18mo. 4s. cl. Cutter's *Manual for the Study of Sepulchral Slabs*, 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl. Dick's *Philosophy of Religion and a Future State*, 1 vol. 18mo. 4s. Dod's *Electoral Facts from 1832 to 1852*, 2nd edit. roy. 18mo. 7s. 6d. Dykes (J. W. B.) *Salem, an Indian Collocutor*, 8vo. 10s. cl. East India Register, 1853, 2nd edition, 12mo. 10s. s. First Steps in British History, post 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl. Fitzhugh's (F.) *The Crook and the Sword*, post 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl. Fletcher's *Autobiography of an Infidel*, 2 vols. post 8vo. 5s. cl. Forbes's *Memorandum made in Ireland in 1852*, 3 vols. 21s. cl. Forsters (Rev. C.) *Six-Preacher Sermons*, 8vo. 12s. cl. Goethe's *Opinions on the World*, 8vo. 4s. 18mo. 3s. 6d. Gosse's *Naturalist's Rambles on the Devonshire Coast*, 21s. cl. Grenville Papers, edited by Smith, Vols. 3 and 4, 8vo. 25s. cl. Hook's *Discourses bearing on the Controversy of the Day*, 8s. cl. Hutcheson's (Ellis) *Song of the Sibyl*, 18mo. 3s. cl. Ingelfield's *Summer Search for Sir John Franklin*, 8vo. 14s. cl. Jenkins's *Recent Exploring Expeditions to the Pacific*, 4s. 6d. cl. Robert's *Art of French Questioning*, 2nd edition, 18mo. 3s. 6d. cl. Jobert's *French Pronouncing Handbook*, 18mo. 3s. cl. Knox (Capt.) *Day Dreams*, cr. 8vo. 2s. 6d. cl. Lansdowne's *Shakespeare*, new edition, corrected, cr. 8vo. 12s. cl. Lectures before Church of England Young Men's Society, 3s. 6d. cl. Little (Dr.) *On Deformities of the Human Form*, 8vo. 15s. cl. Macgregor's (Rev. Sir C.) *Notes on Genesis*, 8vo. 7s. cl. MacLennan's (Ellis) *Song of the Sibyl*, 18mo. 3s. cl. Maiden's *Tower*, by Emily Carter, 5 vols. post 8vo. 31s. 6d. bds. Mamma's *Bible Stories*, sequel to, 4th edition, 18mo. 3s. 6d. cl. Marryat's (Capt.) *Mission*, new edition, fc. 8vo. 1s. 7s. 6d. cl. Mills (J.) *Sacred Symbolism*, post 8vo. 5s. cl. Morell's (J. D.) *Philosophical Tendencies of the Age*, 8vo. 3s. cl. Neale's *History of the Church, for Children*, Part 1, 18mo. 3s. cl. Parish Choir, 3 vols. roy. 8s. 3s. cl. Pearce's (W.) *Everett's Book*, fc. 8vo. 1s. 6d. s. Queechey, by Wetherell, new and cheap edition, 12mo. 2s. bds. Readable Books, 'Baxter's The Guards,' 18mo. 1s. 6d. cl. Reading for Travellers, 'Character of Charles II.' by Barker, 1s. Rickards's (Rev. S.) *Parish Prayer Book*, sq. 1s. cl. Singer's (S. W.) *Text of Shakespeare Vindicated*, 8vo. 7s. 6d. cl. Strauss's (G. L.) *French Grammar*, 18mo. 1s. cl. s. (Wells) Togg's *Improved Pianoforte Preceptor*, by Haskins, oblong, 3s. Thoughts of Peace for the Christian Sufferer, 10th edition, 3s. cl. Todd's *Series of Tables of Area of Circles*, 8s. 2nd edition, 6s. cl. Traits of American Indian Life & Character, by a Fur-Trader, 7s. Universal Library, 'Fiction, Vol. 1,' royal 8vo. 6s. cl. Witherspoon's (Rev. J.) *Doctrine of the Holy Eucharist*, 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl. Wycliffe (John De), A Monograph, by Dr. Vaughan, small 4to. 12s.

THE DUBLIN GREAT INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

[From our own Correspondent.]

THE Inauguration of Ireland's first Great Exhibition of the productions of her own and other nations took place at the appointed time,—and passed off with brilliant success. The weather was most propitious, and the assemblage brilliant. The central hall—upwards of 400 feet long, as we have said—was left clear for the company, which filled it from end to end. There must have been at least 15,000 people present; including the Lord Lieutenant, the representatives of the Church, the Bench, the Bar, the University, the Army, and the Corporations and Guilds of Ireland,—besides a large number of visitors from England, Scotland, and other countries. The Hall was hung with upwards of 160 heraldic banners,—which added much to the picturesque appearance of the whole. The music was in itself a great triumph. It was

of high character, and performed with marvellous accuracy; and the effect of the 800 performers, vocal and instrumental, aided by the great organ, was sufficiently powerful to fill the building, without being marred by that superabundance of noise which often spoils the effect of the finest compositions and execution.

The Exhibition itself, it must be confessed, was somewhat hidden by the ceremony which was to usher it to the world—the means overlaid the end. The object of the Exhibition is, the practical and the useful:—that of the inauguration was, their introduction to high society with a view to give it that stamp which recommends both men and things so forcibly to the public. It is to be hoped, that some day the Useful and the Beautiful may walk hand in hand, independently, through the world,—that an order of merit will rank side by side with orders of nobility:—but those who have the management of Industrial Exhibitions or of any other great public displays must take the world as they find it at present, and use the means which are common to all.

The main body of the Exhibition was far from complete on the opening day,—but the managers had wisely prepared a great treat for their visitors in the Picture Gallery. The collection is perhaps the finest that has ever been seen of the works of modern, and especially of living, artists. The room is 325 feet long by 40 broad, and already contains nearly 600 pictures. Many more have yet to be hung; and an additional gallery, about a quarter the size of the present, is in preparation for the remainder. The Belgian and English schools are most fully represented; next to these, the German; then, the Dutch; and lastly, the French. The foreign collections were made by Mr. Roney, the Secretary, with the assistance of the Emperor of the French, the King of Prussia and Dr. Wagnen, the King of the Belgians, and the Dutch Government. The English pictures have been contributed by private individuals,—including Her Majesty and Prince Albert; and several of the finest productions of the English school have thus been brought before the public for the first time for many years,—amongst which may be mentioned Hogarth's '*Gates of Calais*' and '*Last Stake*,'—Landseer's '*Bolton Abbey*,'—Wilkie's '*Rent Day*,'—Barker's '*Woodman*,'—Danby's '*Deluge*,'—Mulready's '*Wolf and Lamb*,'—Etty's '*Rape of Proserpine*.' A large number of water-colour drawings and prints are placed on screens in this gallery,—and the centre is occupied by sculpture. The most remarkable example of this last, perhaps, is the '*Boy and Dolphin*,' attributed to Raffaelli. The sculptors of Ireland make an excellent show.—This division of the Exhibition must alone draw a very large number of visitors, for such a collection of works of Art is not likely soon again to be brought together.

One end of the Fine-Art Gallery is devoted to a mediæval exhibition; which is in process of being arranged by Mr. Hardman of Birmingham, and will include painted glass, iron, brass, and silver work, ecclesiastical fittings and vestments, wood carving, ornamental tiles, &c. The ceiling is covered with ecclesiastical emblems. The department is considerably larger than that in Hyde Park, and will be much more complete in design and arrangement.—The contents of this department, whatever may be its faults and peculiarities, may teach the people of Ireland an important lesson in Ornamental Art. The value of the articles is very considerable; but that value resides not in the costliness of the materials, but in the artistic labour which has been expended on them. The Irish have a fertile fancy and great aptitude; and this portion of the Exhibition may dispose them to produce articles of ornament, as the Art-workmen of the middle ages did, by the application of taste and skill to materials of comparatively little worth,—and to avoid imitating our heavy, costly, and often inelegant, pieces of plate.

A glass case in the Picture Gallery contains a collection of memorials of Edmund Kean:—including a sword and box presented to the Tragedian by Lord Byron, and another sword given to him by the people of Edinburgh, with the play-bills of

his first and last performances in London,—the characters and dates being, Shylock in 1814, and Othello in 1833. In addition to these, there are, a dagger which belonged to Henry the Eighth, and the hat of Cardinal Wolsey, from the Strawberry Hill collection.

There will be a fine collection of East Indian and Chinese articles,—contributed by Her Majesty, the East India Company, the United Service Museum, the Royal Asiatic Society, the Society of Arts, and several private individuals. The standards taken in China and the guns captured at Soobraon and Goojerat by Lord Gough attract much attention.

The most important sections of the collection to Ireland, however, are those which are self-derived, and which represent her natural resources or the industry of her people. One of these is, a collection of Irish marbles—not merely cabinet specimens, but good practical examples—exhibited by the Royal Dublin Society,—in whose grounds the Exhibition building, as our readers will remember, stands. The Exhibition, in fact, although entirely independent of the Society, has taken the place of the triennial exhibition which that body had held regularly since 1821. Its last exhibition, that of 1850, was indeed thrown open to all the world; but no trouble was taken to obtain contributions from abroad; and the space would not have permitted many foreign articles to have been introduced. On the 24th of last June Mr. Dargan made the liberal offer to put down 20,000*l.* for a grand Exhibition on condition that the Society would permit the building to be erected on their lawn. This was readily agreed to. Mr. Dargan's expenditure has grown to nearly 100,000*l.*; and the building has increased in the same ratio, until it has covered not only the lawn and gardens, but also the court in front of the Society's house, which it completely surrounds. The marbles exhibited by the Royal Dublin Society form part of a much larger collection which it is now making, and for which a new museum is to be erected. For this purpose the Society has set aside upwards of 2,000*l.*—subscriptions have been made to the extent of 800*l.*—and Government has promised a grant of 5,000*l.* The object in view is very important to Ireland. At present, for want of the necessary stimulus, the working and conveyance of the native marbles are both costly,—but there is no intrinsic cause why they should remain so. The Society intend to furnish their entrance hall with architectural fittings worked in Irish marbles. A door-case in fine red marble, two large tables in green Connemara, and a fount in black marble, are included in the collection now shown. There can be no doubt of the value of such efforts as these. The native marbles of Ireland are very beautiful,—some of them quite unique; and if the Exhibition draws attention to them, and leads to improvements and greater economy in working them, it will render a very important service.

The Royal Irish Academy of Science will show a very interesting collection of Irish Antiquities comprised in its Museum,—along with contributions for the purpose from the Board of Works, and from several private individuals. The collection of the Academy is very curious and important; including many rare ecclesiastical antiquities, and a large number of implements, tools, and arms illustrative of the early Art of the country. The Banner of the O'Donnell family—the Psalms of St. Columba—and some other specimens—are very celebrated in Irish history. The Museum of the Society is liberally opened to all applicants,—and the specimens are admirably arranged. To the present time, however, the institution has been without a Catalogue,—which will now be supplied by the Great Exhibition, and which will, doubtless, soon give rise to a great extension of the Museum. Included in the Academy's Museum is a collection of Danish and Norwegian antiquities, presented by the King of Denmark and the Directors of the Museum of Copenhagen.

The Irish Fisheries Commissioners contribute a large collection of apparatus and tackle used in the fisheries; including not only those at present employed, but also specimens of those which have

been superseded or improved,—together with models of what are called River fixtures, and other means of capturing the finny tribe.

In one of the galleries is a collection of 257 specimens of the Birds of Ireland, indigenous and migratory,—together with their eggs. These belong to a private gentleman of Dublin, named Waters,—and are very well arranged in scientific order.

There is a very curious collection of work, principally of the coarser descriptions, exhibited by the guardians of twenty-seven Poor Law Unions.

The general departments of the Exhibition in which Ireland makes the greatest show are:—linen manufactures—poplins, including a loom for making a new broadened variety, which will, as we have said, be woven in the building—Balbriggan hosiery—saddlery and leather work—church bells, of which there are some large and fine specimens—carriages—engineering and architectural designs—musical instruments—lace, embroidery and needlework of every description, and most of it in good taste—clothing—furniture—agricultural machines and implements—and food, which, after the example of the Hyde Park Exhibition, includes tobacco and snuff, in wholesale quantities. There are also several samples of beet-root sugar—bacon and hams in endless profusion—and no small supply of whiskey. In this latter case, the Committee have not followed the lead of London;—nor have they done so in the refreshment-rooms,—where malt liquors of all sorts are freely dispensed, and where probably whiskey is not a stranger.

Since the opening day the work of arrangement has proceeded with rapidity,—and the effect produced has been marvellous. There were some indications of flagging previous to the inauguration; but it seems to have disappeared under the influence of the excitement of that day,—and to have been replaced by confidence and a natural feeling of satisfaction at what has been already achieved, and what promises to be accomplished.

In another week the greater part of the Exhibition will be complete. It will,—indeed, it already does—reflect the highest honour upon the Irish people. In the history of their country there is not recorded a more important or more praiseworthy act than the raising of this temple of industry; and the effort which has been made under so many difficulties must yield a substantial and enduring reward.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS.

AN interesting and important return has just appeared, at the instance of Mr. Ewart, relative to the working of the two Acts for the establishment of public Libraries and Museums;—showing, in what boroughs in England and Wales Libraries and Museums have been formed,—where they are in course of formation,—and what are their state and prospects. The return occupies nine folio pages,—but the following condensed account contains the whole gist of the information.

BATH.—A free public Library and Museum, with a Gallery of Art, is in course of formation. No application has been made to the Town Council for funds; but donations have been promised amounting to 131*l.* 4*s.*

BIRMINGHAM.—An attempt has been made to establish a public Library:—but the proposal was negatived by 534 votes against 363. No attempt to establish a Museum.

BOLTON.—contrasts most favourably with the above. At a poll of the burgesses there were 662 votes in favour of a rate for a public Library, and only 55 recorded against it. The rate will realize about 280*l.* This money is not applicable by the Act to the purchase of books or works of Art,—but only for building, fixtures, and maintenance. A Committee was therefore appointed to solicit donations and subscriptions for the former purpose. The subscriptions already amount to 2,000*l.*, and are expected to reach 3,000*l.* The first object in view was, the formation of a Free Lending Library for the working classes,—after which a Library of reference was to be provided.

CAMBRIDGE.—No Library or Museum has been formed in this borough;—and there seems very little prospect of anything being done.

CANTERBURY.—The corporation had expended 1,600*l.* in the purchase of a Museum; and a Library exists containing 2,430 volumes, which are let out at a penny per volume. A considerable number of books and objects of Nature and Art have been presented. The annual cost of maintaining the Library and Museum is about 130*l.*,—of which the borough rate furnishes nearly 100*l.*

DOVER.—A Museum was opened in 1849, during which year the visitors amounted to 3,075 in number. These have, however, maintained a constant increase, and in 1852 they reached to 9,618. The donations of specimens of Natural History, coins, &c. had reached a total of 3,282. The cost of maintenance is little more than 55*l.* The rate at a half-penny in the pound yields 177*l.* per annum; the surplus after paying the current expenses is appropriated to the payment of interest on money borrowed for the erection of the Museum building, and to the gradual liquidation of the debt.

EXETER.—The burgesses of this city rejected the introduction of the Acts by a majority of 853 against 118.

LEICESTER.—A Museum was established in 1848, and a building provided at a cost of 4,211*l.* The Literary and Philosophical Society presented its valuable Museum to the town, and at present pays the curator's salary. The Museum is opened freely to the public during five days in the week, and the visitors are estimated at about 30,000 during the year. It contains 11,505 specimens,—principally appertaining to Natural History; but it includes also sculpture, casts, models and pictures. The establishment is reported to be progressing towards prosperity; and its beneficial effect is evident in the increased attendance of the working classes.

LIVERPOOL.—A Botanic Garden, Herbarium and Museum were purchased by the Corporation in 1846, and thrown open to the public; and a free public Library was opened in October 1852. The sum of 1,389*l.* was subscribed for books, and 4,000 volumes were presented. The Museum and specimens were given by the Earl of Derby. The number of visitors to the Gardens and Herbarium has steadily increased from 88,461 in 1847, to 212,802 in 1852. The Museum has attracted the immense number of 37,000 visitors in a month. The Public Library contains about 12,000 volumes, and there is a small Botanical Library attached to the gardens. At present the books are not circulated,—but the volumes issued to readers within the Library average about 10,000 a month. The annual cost of maintaining the Botanic Gardens, Herbarium and Botanical Library seems to be about 1,000*l.*; and that of the Free Public Library and Museum was, in 1852, 1,162. There has been received by rate since 1848 upwards of 4,000*l.*

MANCHESTER.—Free Public Library established by subscription, and opened in September 1852. When a rate was proposed, 3,962 burgesses voted for, and only 40 against it. The Library of Reference contains 16,619 volumes, and the Lending Library 5,832. Of these, 4,427 volumes were presented. The sums subscribed amounted to 12,742*l.* In the month of September 1852 the visitors to the Library numbered 58,166,—and from the 1st to the 22nd of October, 49,379. Unfortunately, the counting of the visitors has been discontinued; but the account of the books issued partly supplies the deficiency. During five months these have amounted, in the case of the Reference Library, to 33,094, and in that of the Lending Library to 37,252,—an average of 558 volumes for each day that the Library has been open. The loan of books is permitted on the guarantee of two burgesses of Manchester or Salford, and 3,753 persons availed themselves of the privilege during the five months.

OXFORD.—A poll has been taken for a rate, and, out of 2,069 burgesses, 598 voted for and 72 against it. No rate has, however, been levied, nor any subscription made. The prospect of establishing a Public Library in Oxford is described as “not encouraging.”

SALFORD has its “Royal Museum and Library,” opened to the public in 1850 by a subscription amounting to 2,128*l.* The Library contained 10,794 volumes. The number of books issued to readers last year was 33,461, but they are not per-

successful laying down of the submarine wires. As respects social and commercial advantages, this telegraphic line is of very grave importance. It gives us a second highway of intelligence to the centres of Europe,—and one which, as every reader will understand, would be more at our command in case of certain remote but possible contingencies than the Dover-Calais line. Besides, it is nearer,—and more directly connected with the great central system of European railways. The nearest, we may say the natural, terminus of German railways—indeed of all Continental railways which touch the Lower and Middle Rhine—is at Ostend.

From America we hear that immense preparations are making for the survey of all the routes hitherto proposed for the great Railway to the Pacific. These surveys, like the other magnificent undertakings which have so honourably distinguished the United States Government of late years, cannot fail to add very largely to our knowledge of that vast continent. Not only are the natural history and the geological structure—the nature of the soil and the state of the atmosphere—of a considerable portion of the country between the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains unknown to science, but even its common geographical features—the directions of the rivers, the position of its mountain chains, the character of its passes. A series of able explorers, like those who reported on California or on the Colorado District, sent out in various directions, would be pretty sure to make observations of very great general interest.

There is a motion on the books of the House of Commons of considerable interest as regards the recent scientific improvements in locomotion and the speed and certainty of transit from place to place. It stands in the form of a proposal to appoint a select committee of the House, with a view "to examine and report upon the present state of Communication between London and Dublin *via* Holyhead, as regards the expeditious conveyance of the mails, the transport of troops, and the convenience afforded to the public, and the Irish representatives in particular in their attendance on this House, and report what improvements modern science can suggest to establish a more speedy and commodious communication between the two capitals."

Since the accession of General Pearce to the Presidency of the United States there have been rumours constantly afloat in this country that the expedition to Japan, organized by Mr. Fillmore's Government, would not proceed on its mission. We refused to credit a rumour the truth of which science would have had such just cause to regret, until some official statement should put it beyond doubt; and we are now glad to announce, that the reports were unfounded, and that the Expedition has not been abandoned. On the contrary, the latest advices from America state, that the preparations were at that date so near completion that the squadron was announced to sail on the 1st of May.

We have the following from New York, as to the preparations for the American Arctic Expedition.—"A telegraphic despatch from Washington, dated April 14, states that Dr. Kane is here, and has just received his instructions for his Arctic Expedition from the Navy department. He expects to sail by the 1st of May. He goes first to the head of Baffin's Bay, and thence to the Polar Sea. He has provided for obtaining dogs, sledges, and Esquimaux to aid him. He goes in the brig *Advance*, furnished by Mr. Henry Grinnell. Several of his former companions go with him. For lack of funds, he has not been able to lay in as large a supply of preserved food as is desirable. He will probably return, if possible, within eighteen months."

The directors of the Bristol Athenæum have been endeavouring to get a share of the laurels won by those Derby gentlemen who visited Miss Martineau's book of Eastern Travel with their high displeasure. The new question of literary orthodoxy has been raised in this institution at the expense of the *Westminster Review*; which is objected to on the score of its formal teaching by one party, and as vehemently supported by another on the ground of all opinions

having a right to be heard in their own defence and in the interest of truth. We are not concerned with the specific charges brought against the Review under its new management,—they may be just or not just in the view under which they are brought,—but we are all more or less interested in the maintenance, in good faith and without reserve, of the liberal principles put forth in our institutional programmes. It is gratifying to notice how promptly the general meeting of members reversed the illiberal decision of the directors,—voting for the restoration of the Review in question.

We find by the local papers that a more laudable attempt is making in the same town to procure a union of literary and artistic interests in that town—to house the various members of the two professions under one roof—and otherwise to promote the various objects to be attained by a wide and catholic organization.—Connected more or less intimately with this movement, there is also a desire to bring the Act of Parliament which enables incorporated towns to tax themselves for the support of a free library and museum into immediate requisition. To this end, negotiations have been opened between the Town Council and the Bristol Library Society; but the latter Society having a large and valuable collection of books in its possession, hesitates as yet to commit itself to any distinct proposal. Meanwhile, it is urged with great show of reason that the town has claims on the Society which justify a favourable consideration of its present proposals. The Society has occupied a costly public building rent-free for the last eighty years. Various sums have been voted to the Library out of the public fund, and a portion of the expenses of the institution is paid out of the local rates. Thus, in the days when as yet the masses had expressed no desire for free reading, the Society's Library was to a certain extent the Town Library,—and the fact that it occupies public premises and receives part of its revenue from public sources, must contribute to a more easy understanding and settlement of the terms on which the collection of books shall become the permanent property of the public.

Sir Robert Peel has delivered a lecture on Switzerland—in which country he resided for many years—to a crowded audience at Birmingham. From reports in the local papers, we see that the lecturer takes a large and liberal view of the position and the interests of the Alp country,—a view which is traditional with English statesmen.

Our advertising columns announce the proposal of a club intended for a large and respectable portion of the community of the metropolis who are at present without such an advantage. The entrance fees of the present clubs at the West End range from twenty to thirty guineas; and if the members of a new club have not a desire for exclusiveness, there is, we should imagine, every probability that all the substantial advantages of a club may be secured for a numerous body of members on the terms proposed.

The Dublin Committee appointed to consider the best means of paying a complimentary tribute to Mr. Dargan have resolved not to confine the area of homage to the corporation of Dublin, or even to the city which is reaping the harvest of his last great enterprise. They recommend that the nation shall be invited to contribute to the fund,—and with the view of getting the affair into progress, a large meeting is to be called in Dublin and a general committee is to be named for the entire country.

It having been officially notified to the Board of Trade that the French "Universal Exhibition of Agricultural and Industrial Products" will be opened in Paris on the 1st of May, 1855, the Secretaries of the Department of Science and Art have issued a circular on the subject to the general public. The specific conditions to be offered to foreign exhibitors have not as yet been published by the French Government, but Count Walewski states that these exhibitors will meet with every facility as regards customs regulations, and the reception, arrangement, and security of their products in the Paris Palace of Industry.

A few weeks ago, when commenting on the

answer made by Lord Aberdeen to the deputation of Oceanic Postage reformers, we put it to this body to reply, if they were able, in some practical way, to the assumption of the Minister that a four-penny rate was not too much for the sea-carriage. An answer has been sent to us, giving the case of two American captains of sailing vessels, which proves—if the statement is correct, and if it be not correct the Post-Office can at once contradict it—that the penny ocean rate is already in existence between this country and America. The case is this.—The two captains referred to sail to and fro between London and New York. They say, it is their custom "to leave a letter-bag for the reception of letters in some coffee-house in New York a few days before setting sail, with a notice that it will be closed at a specified hour. At the time appointed, it is locked up, brought on board, and conveyed across the Atlantic to England. On arriving off Gravesend the ship is boarded by the British Custom-house officers; and the letter-bag is put into their hands, under solemn affirmation by the captain that it contains all the mail matter on board to his knowledge. The officers then open the bag, count the letters, post them to the persons to whom they are addressed, each charged with 8d., the usual rate on sailing ship letters, and give the Captain one penny each for his part of the service. This service includes not only the simple item of transportation across the Atlantic, but the putting up of the bag in New York, and sundry other little cares at that end of the route which are included in the inland services on letters crossing the sea and charged as such. Both these sea captains say that this has been a practice of long standing with them, and they presume a similar arrangement has been entered into with other American captains. For themselves, they were quite satisfied with what they have received for their part of the performance, for no freight in the world would pay them so well as the transportation of letters across the ocean at the rate of a penny each. They and the captains of the other American 'liners' would jump at the chance of conveying all the letters that crossed the sea at that figure." These facts are curious and important.

We are aware that they do not answer the whole of Lord Aberdeen's objection,—but they unquestionably narrow it. If it be true that a penny rate will pay the cost under ordinary circumstances, it becomes the more necessary to show that the "usual conditions," an observance of which was part of the Minister's proposal, are necessarily so onerous as to require a tax of threepence on every letter to cover the cost.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, TRAFALGAR-SQUARE.—THE EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY IS NOW OPEN. Admission (from 8 o'clock till 7).—JOHN PRESCOTT KNIGHT, R.A. Sec.

THE NEW SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THIS SOCIETY IS NOW OPEN, at their Gallery, 83, Pall Mall, from Nine till Dusk.—Admission 1s. JAMES FAHEY, Secretary.

THE AMATEUR EXHIBITION, PAUL MALL, comprising upwards of 400 Original Sketches and Drawings, entirely by Amateur Artists, IS NOW OPEN daily, at the Gallery, No. 181, Pall Mall (opposite the Opera-House Colonnade).—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d. E. C. BECKER, Secretary.

GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, 14, Regent Street, will POSITIVELY CLOSE ON SATURDAY, the 4th of June.—The Diorama illustrating the LIFE OF WELLINGTON, including WALTON, BATTLE, THE DUEL, THE CHAMBER, LYING IN STATE, FUNERAL PROCESSION, and INTERIOR OF ST. PAULS, with Vocal and Instrumental Music.—Daily, at Three and Eight o'clock.—Admission, 1s., 2s., 3d., and 4s.

GRAND MOVING HISTORICAL DIORAMA OF NAPOLEON BONAPARTE, NOW OPEN, at the Regent Gallery, 66, Quadrant, accompanied by a full band and efficient chorus. After the Diorama, a performance of Glee and Madrigals by artists of eminence, including the German Quartet Party. Performances.—Afternoon, Three o'clock; Evening, Eight o'clock.—Admission, 1s.; Reserved Seats, 2s.; Stalls, 3s.

PROUT'S PANORAMA of the GOLD FIELDS.—Three New Pictures—LIFE IN MELBOURNE, a GOLD-DIGGER'S WEDDING—LIFE AT THE DIGGINGS, FOREST CREEK—AND A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW of the GOLD FIELDS, painted from recent Sketches—have just been added. Among the other Scenes are Madrigals—The Cape—Melbourne—Geelong—Mount Alexander—Sydney—Summerhill Creek—and Ophir. The Panoramas is described (at 3 and 5) by Mr. Prout, who resided many years in the colony. At 20, Regent Street, next the Polytechnic.—Admission, 1s.; Central Seats, 2s.; Gallery, 6d. Daily, at 12, 3, and 8.

GOLD (AUSTRALIAN)—GREAT GLOBE.—A Large Collection of AUSTRALIAN GOLD, together with the Rocks, Minerals, and Precious Stones of Australia, at Mr. Gould's, next the Polytechnic.—Admission, 1s.; Central Seats, 2s.; Gallery, 6d. Daily, from 10 to 10. Children under 12 years of age and Schools, half-price.

SCIENTIFIC

SOCIETIES.

ROYAL.—*March 12.*—The Earl of Rosse, President, in the chair.—A paper was read 'On Currents in the Arctic Seas,' by Dr. Sutherland.—It was announced, that the Council had recommended the following gentlemen for admission into the Society, and that the election would take place on the 2nd of June at four o'clock:—J. Apjohn, M.D., J. G. Appold, J. A. Broun, A. J. F. Claudet, E. J. Cooper, E. Frankland, Prof. Austen, J. B. Jukes, R. MacAndrew, C. Manby, J. Prestwich, W. J. M. Rankine, W. W. Saunders, W. Spottiswoode, Esqs., and Count P. De Strzelecki.

GEOGRAPHICAL.—*May 16.*—Sir R. I. Murchison, President, in the chair.—The Earl of Clarendon, Sir C. Wood, the Right Hon. E. Cardwell, Hon. Capt. F. Egerton, R.N., Capt. O. V. Harcourt, R.N., Sir R. Howard, Sir J. V. B. Johnston, Lord Stanley, Count Strzelecki, Prof. Austen, J. Ashwell, J. Holmes, and E. Porter, Esqs., were elected Fellows.—Lieut. Bellet, of the French Marine, was unanimously nominated, on the proposition of the Council, for the diploma of a Corresponding Member of this Society.—Dr. Shaw read a paper, 'On the large Continental Ice Masses of Greenland, and on the Origin of the Icebergs of the Arctic Seas,' translated from the Danish of Dr. Rink, of Copenhagen;—and Sir W. Trevelyan communicated a paper from Mr. Lundt, 'On the Climate and Mining Properties of Greenland.' Both these papers were illustrated by large diagrams by Mr. Petermann.

GEOLOGICAL.—*May 4.*—Col. Portlock in the chair.—P. W. Wall, Esq., was elected a Fellow.—The following communications were read:—'On a Freshwater Deposit in the Drift, in Huntingdonshire,' by the Rev. H. M. De la Condamine.—At Hemingford Abbots, near Huntingdon, beds of diagonally stratified sand separated by a seam of marl are intercalated between the fine and the coarse gravel. The latter is below, and contains mammalian remains, but no shells, except remains of Serpule in the sheltered corners of the large flints at the base of the section; the sand and marl contain abundant land and freshwater shells of recent species, pupa, helix, valvata, *Succinea oblonga*, &c. The author argued, from the great numerical proportion of land shells, that the seam and patches of marl indicated a sub-aerial condition of the surface, resembling that of a marsh liable to frequent overflow. He considered that the phenomena of the section indicated—(1) an upheaval after the deposit of the coarse gravel; (2) a subsidence until the completion of the gravel; and (3) a re-elevation and destruction of the deposits of the river, which temporarily discharged itself through the valley. The author proposed the term "stratula" for these smaller sub-divisions of strata, which are frequently arranged obliquely.—'On the Fluvio-Marine Tertiaries of the Isle of Wight,' by Prof. E. Forbes, the President.—The greater part of the Isle of Wight, north of the great chalk ridge, has been hitherto regarded as composed of eocene beds of freshwater and estuary origin, and of the age of those composing Headon Hill. Two geologists only have maintained the existence of higher strata of eocene age, viz., Mr. Prestwich, who rightly suggested that the beds of Hempstead Hill, near Yarmouth, were superior to those of Headon, and M. Hebert, who wrongly took a similar view of the beds in Colwell Bay. The former geologist, moreover, maintained that the Headon Hill beds are of the age of the upper *calcaire grossier* of the Paris basin, and not newer. The author of this paper finds that, contrary to received views, almost all the surface of the island north of the chalk is composed of strata higher in the series than the Headon beds, and intermediate between those and the beds of Hempstead Hill; that all the limestones, except those of Headon Hill itself, belong to the system of these higher strata; that there are two systems of rolls or undulations of these beds, and of all the tertiaries, one parallel to and the other at

right angles with the strike of the chalk ridge; that both these undulations affect the chalk itself; that Whitecliff Bay, in the fluvio-marine portion of its beds, does not represent Headon Hill, as has hitherto been maintained, but includes some 200 feet of higher beds; and that over and above the Headon series, there are two, if not three, sets of beds characterized by peculiar fossils. At the same time, although there is ample evidence for showing that the two upper of these series are the equivalents of the lower miocene of foreign authors, there is also good proof that they all belong to the eocene system. The author proposes the following classification for the fluvio-marine eocene tertiaries of the borders of the Solent:—1. The *Hempstead Series*, 270 feet thick, composed of marls and clays, the uppermost of which are marine. This division, of small superficial extent, is the equivalent of the Limburg beds of Belgium, and in part of the Mayence basin, and of the Grès de Fontainebleau. To the level of the middle and lower portions of this series the so-called miocenes of Malta, and equivalent beds in Barbary, Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and France may now with probability be referred. The distinctness of the vertebrate remains contained in these beds from those of Binstead and Hordwell was several years ago indicated by the Marchioness of Hastings.—2. The *Bembridge Series*, about 130 feet thick, consisting of estuary marls, marine beds and freshwater limestones (those of Bembridge, Sconce, Binstead, &c.), abounding in peculiar fossils, and forming almost the whole of the north shore of the Isle of Wight. This group is the equivalent of the gypsiferous series of the Paris basin.—3. The *St. Helen's Beds*, from 60 to 100 feet thick, variously composed, of estuary and freshwater origin; becoming in part good building stone to the east of Ryde. These beds, possibly representing in part the Grès de Beauchamp, separate the Bembridge from—4. The *Headon Series*, 170 feet or more of strata forming three divisions, long known as the upper freshwater, inter-marine, and lower freshwater. The Hordwell fluvio-marine beds belong to part of this division.

ASIATIC.—*May 7.*—Sir G. T. Staunton in the chair.—W. P. Hammond and R. Wilkinson, Esqs. were elected members.—J. Fergusson, Esq., lectured on the Recent Changes in the Bed of the Ganges. The alterations which had occurred in the course of this great river since the period of the Official Survey, made about eighty years ago, furnish grounds not only for judging of the changes which it had undergone in ancient times, but for predicting future ones. When the Sanscrit-speaking people first entered India, they located themselves in the Punjab; and their capital was gradually removed lower and lower down the river, from the ancient city of Hastinapur, in the neighbourhood of Delhi, to several other stations, until, about 300 B.C., we find it at Palibothra, or Patna, when the valley of the Ganges was sufficiently dried up. From thence the capital was removed to Gaur, then to Dacca, and lastly to Calcutta. When the Himalayas were newly upheaved, an immense quantity of detritus must have been brought down by the Ganges and other streams. The materials thus brought down were deposited on the banks of the rivers, and carried by the inundations over the surrounding plains. The beds of the rivers being also gradually raised, the waters at length broke through the banks, and formed for themselves new channels through the lower-lying country. The country about the upper course of the Ganges has by such means been so raised, that the Saraswati and the Gagar, both of which were in ancient times large rivers flowing into the Ganges, no longer empty themselves into that river, but turn away from it into the Sutlej. Tradition still maintains the junction of the Saraswati with the Ganges; and its waters are said to flow underground to join the sacred river, as of old, along with the Jumna, at Allahabad. The Ganges, however, still contains an immense body of mud; and, unlike the Jumna, is not relieved of it to any extent by canals, so that the same causes are still in operation. The river Sone, flowing from the south, formerly joined

the Ganges at Palibothra; but the site of that city is now thirty-five miles below the junction of the Sone: this is caused by the rising of the lower course of the Ganges, which constantly forces the tributary streams to find a junction at a point higher up the river. The Hooghly, or Bhajerathi, on which stands Calcutta, is the true Ganges; but the changes which have occurred in the channels of the Burrampooter, and the elevation of the lower course of the Hooghly, have caused the Ganges to change its course, and the main stream now flows through the channel of the Pudda, or Padma river, to the sea. The Burrampooter, descending from the mountains of Thibet and Assam, and passing through one of the most rainy districts in the world, brings down an immense volume of water and mud. Joining the Ganges, it is rapidly filling up the mouth of that river, and forcing its waters through the numerous rivers of Jessore into the sea. The Teesta, a river which falls into the Burrampooter, has been in our times the most wandering of all rivers. It changes its course every thirty years: and exhibits in actual progress the same changes which are traceable as having taken place in other rivers 2,000 years ago. The waters of the Hooghly have, within record, greatly diminished; and there appears to be considerable danger of its becoming a mere tidal estuary. In 1774 General Watson took a 74-gun ship up to Chander-nagore; but a brig could not be got up at present. Steamers from Calcutta to the upper provinces are compelled to descend the Hooghly, and make their way through the rivers of the Sunderbuns into the main stream of the Ganges. Should the waters of the Hooghly take the course of the Dummoollah and Roopnarin rivers, it must be shut up. There are influences, however, at work, which may interfere to prevent such a result. The Teesta and other rivers, which now fall into the Burrampooter, being forced upwards, may be cut off from that river, and thrown into the Ganges; the additional water thus obtained may save Calcutta,—and the Hooghly may thereby be restored to something of its ancient importance as the chief bed of the Ganges.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE.—*April 27.*—*Annual General Meeting.*—The Earl of Carlisle, President, in the chair.—The Earl of Carlisle, as President, delivered the annual address, in which he congratulated the members on the present prosperous state of the Society,—and on the fact, that while death or resignation had caused no vacancy in the list of members during the last year, a considerable number of new members had been elected. The Earl of Carlisle gave a summary of the chief subjects of interest which had been brought under the attention of the Society in the different papers which had been read at its meetings. The Earl of Carlisle then alluded, in terms of satisfaction, to the munificent donations of books presented during the past year by H.M. the King of Prussia and the Trustees of the British Museum respectively:—the former of whom had sent to England a copy of Lepsius's work on the Monuments of Egypt,—while the latter had forwarded a complete set of all the works published by them, including catalogues of the MSS., printed books, &c., with all the volumes yet edited of the "Ancient Marbles" and coins preserved in the British Museum.—The following noblemen and gentlemen were elected for the ensuing year.—*President*, The Earl of Carlisle; *Council*, The Earl of Clarendon, B. Austen, Esq., Rev. C. Babington, S. Birch, P. Colquhoun, A. A. Goldsmid, A. Guest, J. Hogg, W. Jerdan, H. S. Kyle, and F. L. Simpson, Esqs., Sir R. Stephenson, J. G. Teed, Esq., W. Tooke, Esq., W. S. W. Vaux, Esq., and Sir W. P. Wood; *Treasurer*, W. Tooke, Esq.; *Auditors*, T. Greenwood, and C. A. Smith, Esqs.; *Librarian*, P. Colquhoun, Esq.; *Foreign Secretary*, J. Hagg, Esq.; *Secretary*, W. S. W. Vaux, Esq.; *Clerk and Collector*, Mr. Hill.

May 11.—The Earl of Carlisle, President, in the chair.—Mr. Vaux read a paper, communicated by R. S. Poole, Esq., of the British Museum, 'On a Diot in Egyptian Chronology calculated by M. Biot.' The writer's object was, to institute a comparison between that which is generally acknow-

ledged to be the most important of M. Biot's dates, viz., B.C. 1444, in the reign of Thothmes III., and the chronological systems which have been previously put forth. Champollion and Rosellini placed the accession of this king, who reigned more than thirty years, about three centuries, and Bunsen and Lepsius about one century, before M. Biot's date. Sir Gardner Wilkinson, in the chronological tables of his 'Modern Egypt and Thebes,' dates the reign of Thothmes III. from B.C. 1495 to 1457 inclusive; and since this chronology is confessedly approximative, the agreement may be considered as remarkably close or even exact. The writer observed, that the only system of Egyptian chronology with which M. Biot's date perfectly tallies is his own, according to which Thothmes III. began to reign not later than B.C. 1445-1444.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE. — May 6. — The Hon. Richard Neville, V.P., in the chair. — A memoir was communicated by Mr. A. H. Rhind, relating to the singular dwellings of a remote period in North Briton, of which notices have been given by Pennant and other writers on Scottish antiquities. They are known as Piets' houses, and the example recently investigated by Mr. Rhind is situated at Kettleburn, in Caithness. Some antiquaries have even called in question the fact that these curious structures could have served as habitations; their form is circular, with very narrow internal passages and small chambers. The excavations, carefully carried out in the present instance, establish undeniably that the building had been the dwelling of man; numerous rude implements of stone, bone, &c. were found amongst the ruins, also pottery, small hand-mills, or mortars for bruising grain, whilst the remains of animals were abundant, with numerous bones of fish, contrary to the statement of Xiphilinus, that the ancient Caledonian tribes never fed upon the fish so plentiful on their coasts. Some objects of bronze, apparently indicating occupation of the site in more civilized times, were laid before the meeting, with a few relics of iron, deserving of notice, since these primitive dwellings have usually been assigned to the "Stone Period," according to the classification proposed by the Northern antiquaries. — Mr. O. Morgan produced a collection of ancient plate, amongst which the most remarkable for its age and costly workmanship was the chalice of the church of Leominster, supposed to be one of those in use at the priory church of that place, prior to the Reformation, and permitted to be retained for parochial use by the commission in the reign of Edward the Sixth. Its date is about 1480; it is enriched with delicately-chased ornaments, which were once enamelled. Mr. Morgan also called attention to the assemblage of cups belonging to the wardmote inquest of the ward of Cripple-gate-without, in the City of London, and produced by the kindness of Mr. Johns, in whose custody they remain. In former times the wardmote inquest was an institution of great importance and utility, its jurisdiction extending to the sewerage of the ward, the scavenging and cleansing of the streets, and the measures now termed sanitary regulations. Twelve scavengers were appointed in the ward of Cripple-gate; and the service being regarded as disagreeable by certain wealthy citizens, they had been permitted to obtain exemption from the duties on presenting a piece of plate to the ward. The drinking vessels exhibited, which are of the reigns of Elizabeth and James the First, bear inscriptions recording such exemptions, and they present interesting examples of the fashion of standing cups and other plate for the buffat at the period. Mr. Morgan observed that their preservation is due to Mr. Johns, since, owing to the functions of the inquest having been superseded by recent police regulations, it has been proposed to sell the ancient plate, but at his urgent remonstrance this alienation of these curious civic memorials was happily abandoned. — Mr. Nesbitt exhibited a remarkable relic of early Irish art, in the form of a human arm, of metal elaborately chased and set with imitative gems. Its date has not been accurately ascertained, some ascribing it to as early a period as the seventh, and others, with greater probability, to the eleventh

or twelfth century. It may have been a reliquary, similar in intention to the celebrated gigantic arm of Charlemagne, preserved in the treasury at Aix-la-Chapelle; or possibly it was a symbol of sovereign authority. It has been some years in the possession of the family of Mr. Fountaine, of Narford Hall, Norfolk, by whose permission it was exhibited. Mr. Nesbitt showed also several fac-similes of some superb sepulchral brasses in Poland, in the Cathedrals of Gnesen and Posen. — Mr. Le Keux read a notice of the processes of etching and engraving, as applied in mediæval times to the decoration of armour and arms; and he pointed out certain tests of utility in testing the numerous modern fabrications, chiefly brought from Italy, of objects of that nature. — Mr. Franks announced that the entire collection of British and Roman antiquities found at Farley Heath, Surrey, and exhibited at the previous meeting, had been presented to the collection of national remains at the British Museum, by Mr. Henry Drummond, on whose estates near Albury these valuable relics were found. Mr. Franks also brought under the attention of the Society a fac-simile of a unique astrolabe of bronze, probably of English workmanship, lately found by him stored away in the British Museum, amongst objects from Northern Africa. The Arabic numerals on this instrument, which presents one of the earliest examples of their use in Western Europe, had possibly led to this unworthy misappropriation of a very curious relic of mediæval science, now brought by Mr. Franks into a more fitting place. — Mr. Morgan gave a short notice of the numerous uses to which the astrolabe had been applied, observing that the discovery now communicated had supplied an example much earlier in date than any known to him, and probably of the commencement of the fourteenth century. — Amongst the antiquities exhibited were, some bronze weapons and ornaments, discovered in Wiltshire and in Wales, brought by the Rev. F. Dyson, and Mr. Salmon. — Mr. Norris sent a collection of antiquities found in Somersetshire, including a remarkable bronze object, supposed to have been attached to an ancient chariot. — The Rev. W. Sneyd contributed several beautiful enamels, sculptures in ivory, and embroideries. — Mr. Smirke sent a curious inscribed ring, found at Exeter; and another, of gold, from Dorset, once richly enamelled, was brought by the Rev. C. Bingham. — It was announced that it was proposed to open for the inspection of members and their friends, in the large meeting room of the Institute, 26, Suffolk Street, a remarkable collection of works of ancient art, known as the "Fegervary Museum," lately brought to this country from Hungary, and shortly to be conveyed to America. It comprises choice examples of all periods, antique bronzes, Egyptian and Etruscan antiquities, enamels, works in niello, sculptures in ivory, intaglios, Oriental bronzes, and specimens of mediæval art, in rich variety. This interesting series is now open for the inspection of the members of the Institute, who have the privilege of introducing their friends during the short period that the museum may remain in London.

STATISTICAL. — May 16. — Sir J. P. Boileau in the chair. — The Chairman announced that Earl Fitzwilliam, President, had nominated the following gentlemen Vice-Presidents for the year ensuing: — Sir J. P. Boileau, the Right Hon. H. Mackenzie, T. Tooke, Esq., and the Rev. E. W. Edgell. — On the Immediate and Remote Effect of the Remission of Customs and Excise Duties on the Productiveness of those Branches of the Revenue, by Dr. Guy. — The author commenced by stating that the object of his paper was twofold: — To examine, first, the effect, immediate and remote, of the remission or increase of Customs and Excise duties on the productiveness of those branches of the revenue; and secondly, to prepare the way for an inquiry into the relation of the price of wheat to the revenue derived from Customs and Excise. He explained the necessity for grouping the two duties, and exhibited a statement which showed that in the thirty years from 1822 to 1851, Customs and Excise duties had been remitted in

excess of duties increased, or newly imposed, to the amount of 26,474,105*l*. In 26 out of the 30 years the taxes reduced or repealed had exceeded those increased or newly imposed, while the remaining 4 gave an opposite result. The effect of the remission in the 26 years was, that 13 exhibited the revenue restored with surplus, 7 in which the revenue was partially restored, and 6 showed a falling off in the revenue. Of the 4 years in which the Customs and Excise duties reduced or repealed fell short of those increased or newly imposed, 3 years exhibited an increased revenue, and 1, a diminished revenue, consequently the 30 years showed the following results: — successful years, 16; partially successful years, 7; unsuccessful years, 7. The year 1845 exhibited a remarkable result; Customs and Excise duties were remitted to the amount of 4,511,841*l*., yet those taxes not only recovered themselves in the following year, 1846, but showed an increase of 774,780*l*. In the 30 years under review, 234 millions, out of a revenue of 38 millions in 1822, or 62 per cent., had been remitted without impairing the productiveness of those branches of the revenue, while on the contrary in the residue, amounting to 16 millions, little more than 3 millions, or 19 per cent., had been remitted with the same result; comparing the latter with the increase of population in the same period, 47 per cent., it appeared that the financial operations bearing upon the residue had yielded considerably less than half the increase which the mere increase of population would have brought about had no reduction of duty taken place. The author concluded by stating the following results: — 1. That the immediate effect of a remission of Customs and Excise duties on the revenue, derived from those two sources, was greater than the immediate effect of a remission of all duties, without exception, on the net ordinary revenue. 2. That the effect of a remission of Customs and Excise duties on the productiveness of the revenue derived from those two branches, was proportionately greater for periods of 5, 10, 15, and 30 years, than the effect of the remission of imports of all kinds (Customs and Excise duties included) on the productiveness of the net ordinary revenue for the same periods of time. 3. That the increase of the Customs and Excise duties for the last 30 years had been at a greater ratio than the increase of the net ordinary revenue; for while the annual increase in the net ordinary revenue had exceeded the increase due to the growth of population by only 50,000*l*. per annum, the increase in the departments of the Customs and Excise had exceeded by upwards of 190,000*l*. per annum, the increase due to that cause.

HORTICULTURAL. — May 2. — Anniversary. — J. M. Strachan, Esq., V.P., in the chair. — The Annual Report from the Council was read. — The ballot for Council and officers took place; when the Duke of Northumberland, the Right Hon. L. Sullivan, and J. Gadesden, Esq., were elected new members of Council, in the room of Lord Ashburton, Sir C. Lemon, and W. W. Salmon, Esq. The Duke of Devonshire was re-elected President; J. R. Gowen, Esq., Treasurer; Dr. Royle, Secretary; and Messrs. Charlwood and Stevens, Auditors.

ENTOMOLOGICAL. — May 2. — J. O. Westwood, Esq., V.P., in the chair. — Among the donations was a printed catalogue presented by Mr. Stainton, entitled "Bibliotheca Stephensiana," — being a catalogue of the entomological library of the late J. F. Stephens, Esq., F.L.S., which has been preserved entire, and is now removed to Mountfield, Lewisham, where it may be consulted by any entomologist every Wednesday evening as heretofore. — The Chairman announced in reply to several inquiries from the apple-growing counties, that the "mussel-scale," proposed as the subject for the Society's prize essay this year, was the same insect as the "scale" or "scale-blight" of the apple. — Mr. Doubleday presented a drawing of the underside of a singular variety of *Polyommatus Alexia*. — Mr. Bond exhibited a new British Psyche, *P. marginigrella* (Brund), reared from a case found in the north of England. — Mr. Wilkinson exhibited larva-cases of *Incurvaria musculella* and *I. Zinckenii*.

each formed of two pieces cut out of a leaf and joined together at the edges,—the former from a birch leaf, the latter from an oak leaf. He also exhibited specimens of the new and rare *Lithocolletis Nicellii*, reared from nut leaves.—Mr. S. Stevens exhibited specimens of rare Coleoptera, *Amarodes Passerinii* and *Eudicella Smithii*, received from Port Natal.—The Chairman read a note from Mr. Weaver, stating that among the beetles taken by him last year in Perthshire was a new British species, *Ampedus tristis*.—Read a note from 'J.W.' of Liverpool, recommending sulphuric ether as the most preferable agent for killing insects.—Read also a note from Mr. Spence, drawing attention to the spread in France of the small white ant, *Termes lucifugus* (Rossi), which had lately been found at Rochelle, where it was rapidly extending, proving very destructive to timber and living plants, and whence it could easily be imported into this country; showing also the importance of noticing its first appearance, as thus only could means be adopted to destroy it.—The Chairman mentioned the occurrence in a well at Maidenhead of *Niphargus Stygius*, a blind shrimp, found also in the caves of Carniola, and described and figured in the Society's Transactions. The individuals were so numerous in the well referred to that the water could not be used, and although it had been cleaned out, still some of the shrimps remained.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—May 10.—J. M. Rendel, Esq., President, in the chair.—The evening was devoted to the discussion of Mr. Coode's paper, 'Description of the Chesil Bank, (Portland).'

May 17.—J. Locke, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—'On the Caloric Engine,' by Mr. C. Manby.—'On the Principle of the Caloric, or Hot Air Engine,' by Mr. J. Leslie.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—May 9.—General Monthly Meeting.—G. Dodd, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—J. Burnett, Esq., E. Enfield, Esq., W. C. Henry, M.D., E. Holland, Esq., D. MacLoughlin, M.D., C. Otter, Esq., G. T. Tomlin, Esq., E. Truman, Esq., and F. Weber, M.D. were elected Members.—T. W. Brande, Esq. was re-elected Honorary Professor of Chemistry in the Institution.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—April 27.—Sir J. P. Boileau, V.P., in the chair.—A paper was read by the Very Rev. the Dean of Hereford, entitled, 'Remarks on the Importance of giving a Self-supporting Character, as far as possible, to Schools for the Labouring Classes; and the Means of doing so,' which was followed by a discussion.

May 4.—The Right Hon. the Earl of Harrowby in the chair.—The discussion was resumed on the Dean of Hereford's paper, above named.

May 11.—H. Cole, Esq., in the chair.—A paper was read 'On the Application of the Microscope to Photography,' by the Rev. W. Towler Kingsley.

SYRO-EGYPTIAN.—May 10.—Dr. Lee, in the chair.—The Chairman exhibited three Babylonian cylinders, an Abraxas ring, some Cufic and Arabic coins, two curious spear and two arrow heads, and some Greek and Turkish coins, partly from his own collection, partly from that of the late John Barker, Esq., of Suwaidirjah.—Mr. S. Sharpe read a paper on the trading voyage undertaken by Solomon and the Tyrians on the Red Sea. Its purpose was, to show the limit of geographical knowledge at that time by a reference to the discoveries afterwards made,—such as, the voyage of Scylax in the reign of Darius, of Eudoxus in the reign of Evergetes II., and of Hippalus in the reign of the Emperor Claudius. The author then argued that Solomon's ships could not have gone beyond Hadramaut on the Arabian coast and Zanzibar on the African coast. He considered Ophir to be the same place as the Golden Berenice of the Ptolemies, the port of the Nubian gold mines; and showed that the cargo of valuable goods brought home in Solomon's ships was exactly the same as the Ethiopian tribute brought down the Nile to Thothmosis III. He referred to the Jewish settlements on the coasts of Auzum and Hadramaut, at the southern end of the Red Sea, so well known in the second and third centuries, as traces or rem-

nants of Solomon's intercourse with those coasts; and combated a new opinion lately published, that the Queen of Sheba, called also the Queen of the South, dwelt at the northern end of the Red Sea.—A notice by Miss Fanny Corboux 'On the Physical Geography of the Exodus' was then read. By means of some valuable geological observations made by Mr. Robert Stephenson during his last stay in Egypt,—and also by the rectification of the levels in some leading points, on the same authority,—Miss F. Corboux had been enabled to restore the relative configurations of land and sea with geological certainty up to the time of Darius Hystaspes, B.C. 521, and from thence to deduce those of the Mosaic period.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Mon.** Geographical, 1.—(Anniversary.)—Address 'On the Progress of Geography.'
- Tues.** Horticultural, 2.
Zoological, 2.—Scientific.
— Meteorological, 7.
— Institution of Civil Engineers, 8.—, Description of the Newark Dyke Bridge, Great Northern Railway.—Discussion 'On the Principle of Warren's Girders,' by Mr. Cubitt.—'On the Speed and other Properties of Ocean Steamers,' by Capt. Henderson.
— Années, 1.—(Anniversary.)
— Royal Institution, 3.—'On the Electric Telegraph,' by Mr. Carpenter.
- Wed.** Microscopical, 5.
— Royal Society of Literature, 5.
— Society of Arts, 5.
— British Archaeological, 5.
Thurs. Society of Antiquaries, 8.
— Royal, 8.
— Royal Institution, 3.—'On Technological Chemistry,' by Dr. Frankland.
Fri. Philological.—(Anniversary.)—'On English Etymologies,' by Mr. Wedgwood.
— Royal Institution, 5.—'On Hydrogen and its Homologues,' by Mr. Brodie.
Sat. Royal Institution, 3.—'On Air and Water,' by Dr. Tyndall.

FINE ARTS

SALE OF LOUIS PHILIPPE'S SPANISH PICTURES.

IN our notice last week of this sale, we omitted to mention the four large and very fine Zurbarans, Nos. 157, 158, 159, and 160,—'The Annunciation,' 'The Conception,' 'The Adoration of the Shepherds,' and that of 'The Magi.' These were knocked down in one lot to the Duc de Montpensier for 1,700*l.*,—and are destined to return to the orange-clothed banks of their native Guadalquivir. We may also observe, that the grand altar-piece by this master, No. 142, was not purchased—as was understood—for the Prussian gallery, but was secured by Count Raczinski for himself.

The second portion of the collection, sold on Friday and Saturday last, consisted of 330 pictures,—and realized 10,350*l.* It was remarkable for the many first-rate and undoubted specimens of Zurbaran:—of whose works such an assemblage never before has been offered together, and probably never will be offered again. It pained us much to observe the damage that many of these and other pictures have received from the careless manner in which they were packed at Paris,—where, we hear, their surfaces were coarsely pasted over with newspapers. These operations may have arisen from the not unnatural anxiety of the owner to get them out of that political caldron as quickly as possible:—just as M. Soult's "collections" were carted off to Brussels when M. Ledru Rollin and the doctrine of "La propriété c'est le vol" loomed in the future. And here we may remark, that of all works of painting, the old pictures of Spain are the most likely to be in bad condition. The Gotho-Moro-Spaniard is anything but conservative:—he lives for the day, and cares "for none of these things." Turn where you will, everything in the Peninsula, in doors and out of doors, is kept in bad style, and looks as if it were in our own Court of Chancery. The fate of church pictures forms no exception to this rule. They are either smoked by the candles, spotted over by oil and wax, injured by scaffolds and altar-melo-dramas, left neglected and unvarnished, or, what is worse, repainted. There is scarcely a genuine Murillo in the Madrid gallery; where the "beautifying" process is most remorselessly carried on; consequently, a pure specimen of this dark and devotional school is rarer than a black swan was once supposed to be:—as all who have purchased at this sale will find when their patients go into the hospital.

The sale, at least, has not been got up on the *ad captandum* principle. The Catalogue—a French production—is full to the brim of errors, as we perhaps may show hereafter; and the general lugubrious impression of the cowed monks, armies of martyrs, and knights of rueful countenance, was increased by the mean strips of wood called frames by courtesy. The eye as it glanced around certainly was not pleased,—however the connoisseur might be struck with the sentiment and treatment. We offered last week some reasons why Spanish Art is not popular here; and may now add, that the Church—the real power and patron in Spain—opposed the "beautiful" on principle, and from a dread of a siren rival, whose sensual attractions would surely end in overpowering the moral and the religious. Titian and Correggio, with their glowing graces of colour, secularized, as it were, Art in Italy,—which, when it ceased to be consecrated to the altar, became "of earth, earthy," and soon declined and disappeared. In Spain—more Roman Catholic than Rome herself—the spirit of the Inquisition brooded longer, and opposed the approach of novelty as a heresy in religion. There, the early forms and prototypes were strictly maintained, because associated with the people's reverence from their cradle:—the same dresses, colours, and treatment of varied subjects continued to be enjoined with rubrical strictness. Art-inspectors were appointed sentinels over the studio,—by whom the inorthodox, the free, and the nude were effaced. Hence, a Spanish Venus is a desideratum on canvas. The superb exception by Velasquez now at Rokeby was painted for the Duke of Alba,—an "awkward customer":—and to this day at Madrid, the free pictures of Italy are lumped together in a reserved room, and packed into a penitentiary for the better preservation of the morals of that most Catholic and most inflammable capital.

An air of sameness—a family likeness in Spanish pictures—was another result of this prescribed uniformity of the Church,—just as the priests of Egypt enforced a fixed immutability and attitude and attribute in all representations of creed; and now, English ladies and gentlemen, while surrounded in King Street with these awe-inspiring "things of Spain," can understand how even one of the native painters feared at nightfall to be left alone with a certain picture at Seville,—and can pardon an archdeacon of the west of England who lost his luncheon appetite on finding his neighbouring host—a traveller, and a Zurbaran collector—out, and his awful monks and martyrs at home.

We proceed to notice some of the principal pictures of this portion of the sale, and their prices. No. 203, 'St. Peter,' a large and very forcible specimen of the elder Herrera, passed into the collection of Mr. Stirling for only 8*l.* This master is interesting in the *annals* of Spanish Art as having been the first to break down the meagre and timid style of handling. This Michael Angelo of the school of Seville painted with a bold brush and daring design. Parts of the picture in question rival Rubens in rich velvety effects and *bravura*. No. 681, by Zurbaran, represents St. Francis kneeling before a table, on which a tiara is placed. While in the angle above an angel appears, counselling him to renounce the pomps and vanities of the Vatican, and set his affection on higher things,—in the background a conclave of scarlet-robed cardinals await the rare *nolo papari* decision of the saint. The broad treatment of the drapery is most effective. This—one of the noblest pictures of the sale—passed, for 68*l.* only, into the collection of Prince Albert:—for whom also was purchased, for 240*l.* No. 240, a grand gallery picture, 'Alonso Cano,' in which Balaam is encountered in his path by the sword-armed angel. No. 224—a *replica* by the same master of the exquisite Cano, No. 53 in the previous sale—was bought, we believe, for Mr. T. Baring, for 200*l.*:—and the purchaser may be congratulated on his acquisition. No. 225, a little dog asleep, sold for 35*l.* It was ascribed to Zurbaran; but more probably is by Velasquez himself,—who commenced his Art career by painting *bodegones*, or objects of still life. The sleeping portion of the lioness legs is rendered to the life itself. No. 231, 'St. Mary of Egypt,' by Ribera,

was indeed a *cosa de España*, "and no mistake." This lady, who when young and beautiful was no better than she ought to be, repented as she grew older and plainer,—and retired to the desert, where she did penance nearly naked for many a long year until found by one Zozimus. The picture brought 11*l.*:—its full worth in the estimation of the worldly. No. 240, a Saviour, with the reed and robe of state, by Murillo, was purchased by Lord Breadalbane for 160*l.*,—and may be considered one of the cheapest pictures in the sale. Painted in the second manner of the master, it is full of fine colour and feeling. It was for years a great ornament of the Cathedral of Seville; and was presented, we believe, to Louis Philippe by the Chapter. The next lot, to show the chapter of auction accidents, No. 241, a 'Saviour,' attributed to Murillo, fetched 250*l.*,—although it is a picture of no pretensions to originality or merit, and one long unsaleable at Seville, until Baron Taylor swept the Augean stable of good and bad with his golden broom. No. 244, a 'Magdalen,' for a time hopelessly in the market, and always and justly doubted, was then sold as a Murillo, for 840*l.*:—but the fair penitent had other un-Spanish attractions, and the liquid eyes spoke eloquence of their own. No. 246, although it has suffered in the wars, is full of fine feeling and character,—and was sold for 680*l.* It represents a touching legend of St. Augustine. The sable-robed Bishop of Hippo, strolling on the sea-bench, finds a divine child pouring the ocean with a shell into a hole in the sand, and was thus answered when asking why he did so:—"Sooner shall I accomplish my task than you will finish yours,—for you are now seeking to explain the Trinity." Newton, when in years, compared himself to a child picking up here and there a prettier shell than his neighbours, while the inscrutable ocean of truth lay unknown before him. No. 249, a portrait of 'Isabel de Borbon,' by Velasquez, was knocked down to Mr. Farrer for 300*l.* Very grandiose in position,—the silk-like draperies are admirable, and the *pentimenti* about the head are numerous. To some it seemed as if much of the figure and curtain had been got in by a pupil, while Velasquez touched the head and part of the costume himself. No. 251, 'Christ and the Disciples at Emmaus,' was bought by Lord Breadalbane, for 250*l.* It is painted by Velasquez in his earliest manner,—very solemnly conceived, and treated with great power, simplicity, and effect. The two disciples on whom the discovery of the Real Presence flashes are kept down in sober shadow, while the light bursts from the revealed Deity.

The great attraction of the day was No. 250,—a 'Nativity' by Velasquez, and certainly one of the most remarkable examples of this prince of Spanish painters in his early manner. It was knocked down for 2,050*l.* to Mr. Uwins; and the repeated cheers of a room crowded with many of the leading Art-connoisseurs of London hailed this new acquisition for the National Gallery. Such emphatic approval should stimulate the Trustees to take courage and advance, as it offers a guarantee that the country represented by those best qualified to judge will ratify such outlays with no grudging spirit. Nevertheless, whispers have reached our ears that this picture is attributed to Zurbaran, to Ribera, to Caravaggio, and to others, by critics who have never crossed the Pyrenees, and who have paid more attention to the arts of Holland, England, and Italy than to those of the Peninsula. We shall not be surprised to see the Trustees called over the coals, and martyred for a new mistake:—so many are the "frondeurs" in Art,—Ishmaelites, whose hand is against every one—who would wrangle, dispute, and question at 'The Transfiguration' itself, if it had been bought by the Trustees and certified by the Royal Academy,—or at least would swear that it was a copy, or altogether re-painted. There is no end of logomachies—of this war and waste of words, words, words. The Trustees need not hope to escape cavillers willing, and deeming themselves competent, to speak historically and critically respecting the originality of a picture which never was questioned in its native city. Few pictures, in-

deed, possess a pedigree more historically perfect, or bear a truer stamp of their author, than this. It was painted at Seville by Velasquez, before he first went to Madrid,—and was long preserved in the family of the Conde del Aquila, and time out of mind the lion to which every stranger was taken. When the entails of Spain were abolished, it was sold to Louis Philippe, we believe, for 4,800*l.* Velasquez when he painted it was pupil to his father-in-law Pacheco, who has handed down the process and progress of his Art-education. His former master, Herrera, had instilled into his young hand a boldness and *bravura*, and taught him to look at nature through the eyes of Ribera and Caravaggio,—then so popular at Naples. The precocious Zurbaran led the way at Seville,—and Velasquez, before his own manner was fixed, adopted an eclectic style based on all of his predecessors:—to each of whom parts of this grand picture might partly be attributed. It is impossible to examine the 'Aguador de Sevilla' in the possession of the Duke of Wellington without feeling that the two pictures are of the same hand and period. We would cite the peculiar yellowish tone of a cloak,—which is observable also in the 'Bebidores' at Madrid, before which Wilkie used to stand for hours, and on which Roberts never ceases to descant. Pacheco has also told us how Velasquez when young persuaded a peasant to be his model, whom he drew in every attitude; and this model we recognize in his 'Birth of Christ,' in his 'Apollo and Vulcan,' in the 'Jacob and his Brethren,'—and in fact in many of his later and finest works. It happens singularly enough that No. 159 in this sale was a 'Birth of Christ,' indubitably painted by Zurbaran in 1638. One glance at the two, while it distinctly shows the common sources to which both painters had recourse, demonstrates also the superiority of the Velasquez. His masculine force, verve, and precision are stamped on every portion,—and the design is superior throughout. Compare the lamb of Zurbaran,—how feeble and flat in relative touch:—compare the straw in the manger,—how stiff and formal, how wanting in light glowing lines! A "straw" may show which way the wind blows:—and these minor accessories offer often the best tests of an original. The really great master cannot be hid,—as it is not in his power to draw without spirit.

In some respects it might seem by the fourth day's sale that the public had got a little over their first fright at these draped, forbidding pictures, and had begun to appreciate the powers and truth with which the objects aimed at by the artists were accomplished. The test of a thing is, what it will bring,—and the thermometer of prices certainly was rising when No. 264, a small 'Missionary,' by Zurbaran, was knocked down for 41*l.* We own to some surprise when No. 268, a little 'Adoration,' copied from a print of Lucas van Leyden, produced 58*l.*:—and indeed, we were frequently struck with the presence of new purchasers in whose eyes the worst pictures and copies found the greatest favour. Nos. 282 and 286, both 'Carthusian Monks,' and painted by Zurbaran with much truth, produced 61*l.* and 36*l.*,—and were capital specimens; and Nos. 297 and 299, 'Santa Rufino' and 'Santa Lucia,' were very pleasing and less ascetic, and sold for 80*l.* and 60*l.*,—which they were well worth. No. 302, called 'Don Juan of Austria,' by Coello, but probably representing Don Carlos, son of Philip the Second, was sold to Mr. Stirling for 95*l.* Three other portraits by this remarkable painter of costume.—No. 302a 'The Emperor Rudolph,' No. 303 'The Archduke Ernest,' and No. 70 'The Archduke Wenceslaus'—passed for 51*l.*, 34*l.*, and 70*l.* into the collection of the illustrious Prince who showed his own good taste by the acquisition of the fine Cano and Zurbaran, and to whom the people owe the Great Exhibition which has done so much to advance their Art-education. Our readers know well that we are no flatterers;—but when we remember all that this Prince has done and is doing for the cause of Art and Science in England, we may permit ourselves a passing tribute of respectful admiration. No. 305, the 'Portrait of Charles the Second,' by Carreño, was purchased by Mr. Denison for 95*l.* It is a genuine specimen of the last of the Spanish painters with

whom the arts of Velasquez expired,—as did the Austrian race with this feeble monarch, the fit ruler for a dilapidated country. No. 316, 'A Philosopher,' by Ribera, and bought for 129*l.* by Lord Breadalbane, is a grand example of his decided outlines and rich naturalistic colour. No. 319, called in the Catalogue the 'Two Children of Philip the Fourth,' by Velasquez, but in reality the portrait of a dog and two dwarfs aged 18 and 22, was sold for 190*l.*; and a copy of Philip the Second, attributed to Titian, for 210*l.* No. 327, a grey poor thin landscape, attributed to Murillo, brought 81*l.* It was painted really by Antolinez,—and is one of those infinite specimens which a few years ago used to be plentiful as blackberries at Seville, and worth from 10*l.* to 15*l.* each.

No. 328, the great picture of the day, was a genuine portrait by Murillo of Andres Andrade, the state vergor of the Cathedral of Seville. It was knocked down for 1,020*l.*, amid the cheers of the competitors,—and, if a report in the room be true, to an eminent and liberal Mæcenas in order to be presented to the National Gallery. This picture was purchased some twenty years ago, at Seville, by the late Sir John Brackenbury, Consul at Cadiz,—who obtained it from the very heirs of Andrade for less than 400*l.* Some dispute arose between the agent employed and Sir John, who refused him the usual fee; thereupon the broker gave information to the authorities,—the old law of Charles the Third against the exportation of paintings was put in force,—and the picture was embargoed. Some time after, a poor copy of the portrait was picked up,—leave was obtained to compare it with the original,—and the copy was substituted in its place. Sir John subsequently would have sold his picture to the Government here for some 500*l.*,—the offer was declined,—and it was mapped up by Louis Philippe at 2,000*l.* There is a fine replica of this work in Cheshire, in the gallery of Sir Arthur Aston. The picture now sold is the identical one which Lord Wellesley when in Seville vainly endeavoured to obtain. It is a grand specimen of the master, and of the Spanish *hidalgos*, of sable hair, and whisker, and costume; and might be taken as the portrait of Cabrera, the renowned guerrillero of Don Carlos.

No. 329, a portrait of Murillo himself,—true, but much damaged and repainted,—fetched 420*l.* It cannot be compared to the fine replica bought by Lord Spencer at Lord Ashburnham's sale for double the amount.—No. 330, a portrait, attributed to Velasquez, and said to be of himself, sold for 140*l.* No one can deny the infinite spirit with which it is dashed in; but the tones are so little like those of Velasquez, that many of the best judges in the room shook their heads, and to our mind it is neither a portrait of him, nor one by him. The sale will be concluded this week; when the collection formed by Mr. Standish, and bequeathed to Louis Philippe, will be brought to the hammer, and fairly submitted to public competition,—for this is, we are assured, a *bond fide* sale, in the fullest acceptation of the words. No sort of reserved price has been placed on any lot.—The pictures bought by the Orleans family were hidden for exactly as were those purchased by the public, without favour or preference.

FINE-ART GOSSIP.—The pressure of other matter on our columns this week, and the extent to which we have recently surrendered them up to Art-report, induce us to defer our concluding notice of the Royal Academy Exhibition until our next number.

The web-work of scaffolding which within the last fortnight has covered a portion of the new front of Buckingham Palace is accounted for by a contemporary in a manner to cover with shame those under whose superintendence our public works are executed. The scaffolding is said to be erected for the purpose of removing the casing of stone from parts of the *façade*,—the stone having been already discovered to be in the first stage of decay. This is pretty well for a building which, we believe, has not yet even been occupied!

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe has presented to the University of Cambridge a set of casts of the Heliocarnassus Marbles now in the British Museum.

The place assigned to them is in the Fitzwilliam Museum. They are now to be seen in the southern compartment of the sculpture room there.

The Berlin journals announce, that Baron Cornelius has been despatched to Rome by the King of Prussia on an important artistic mission. They are silent as to the nature of the work in question; but state that it is of such extent, that he has taken all his family with him, for a long residence.

At Helsingfors, say the foreign journals, has just been opened an Exhibition of the Fine Arts—the first that ever took place in Finland. Of fifty-two pictures which compose it, forty are by native artists:—a fact sufficiently noticeable in a country where but a few years ago so little was known of Art that the very street sign-boards were imported from abroad. It is also noticeable, that of these forty about two-thirds are the works of fourteen young ladies, nearly all of the old nobility of Finland.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

MR. BRINLEY RICHARDS'S PROGRAMME FOR THIS MORNING (May 31), at the Hanover Square Rooms, to commence at 8 o'clock.—Trio in C Minor, Piano-forte, Violin and Violoncello, Beethoven; Messrs. Brinley Richards, Saindon, and Lucas. Song, 'Song should Breathe of Scents and Flowers,' Hutton; Mr. Benson. Solo, Piano-forte, Mr. Brinley Richards; Study in A flat, Moscheles; Allegretto con Grazia, Heller (first time of performance); 'The Rose Tree,' 'Fountain,' 'Fountain,' Stereade Bennett. Air, 'For the Lord is Merciful,' (St. Paul) Mendelssohn; Miss Freeman. Duetto, Piano-forte, 'Andante con Variations,' Mendelssohn; M. Alex. Bitts and Mr. Brinley Richards; Air, 'L'Addio,' Mozart; Miss Dolby. Chamber Trio in A major, Stereade Bennett; Messrs. Brinley Richards, Saindon and Lucas. Song, 'O! do not Cheat me,' 'Smart; Miss Dolby. Solo, Piano-forte, Mr. Brinley Richards; 'Cujus Animus' (from Rossini's 'Stabat Mater'), 'La Reine Blanche' (first time of performance), dedicated to Mr. Prudent, Brinley Richards.—The Vocal Music will be accompanied by Mr. Alfred Warren.—Subscription Tickets (Reserved Seats) for the series, One Guinea; Single Reserved Seats, Half-a-Guinea; Single Tickets, 7s.; to be had of the principal Musicians.

FRENCH PLAYS.—MR. MITCHELL'S BENEFIT, under the gracious patronage of Her Majesty.—Mr. Mitchell respectfully announces that HIS BENEFIT is fixed to take place on WEDNESDAY NEXT, May 31, on which occasion will be presented the favourite Comedy (of that night only) 'LE MARI À LA CAMPAGNE,' and (for the last time it can be repeated) 'LE BONHOMME JADIS,' in which M. Regnier will repeat his admirable personation of Le Bonhomme Jadis, being also the last night but two of the Comedy Performances. Mr. Mitchell solicits the favour of an early application for Boxes and Stalls.—Royal Library, 33, Old Bond Street.—May 30, 1853.

MILIE RACHEL.—FRENCH PLAYS.—MR. MITCHELL respectfully announces that the engagement of the eminent tragedienne Milie RACHEL will terminate on WEDNESDAY EVENING, June 1, and that the representations to be given in London this season by that great artist will positively terminate at the end of the month. Mr. Mitchell begs also to announce that he has succeeded in obtaining a prolongation of the congé accordé to Monsieur Regnier by the Théâtre Français, Paris, for the more effective representation of 'Adrienne Lecouvreur,' and the popular New Play of 'Lady Tartuffe,' by Madame Girardin, in which M. Regnier will perform the important character of Le Baron des Tourbières, and in 'Adrienne Lecouvreur' the character of Mignonnet. The engagements of Milie Rachel and M. Regnier being limited to one month, the performances will be given four times a week, on the usual evenings—Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. The New Play of 'Diane,' by M. Emile Augier, which has been so highly successful, will be produced during the first week of Milie Rachel's engagement.

The First Representation, on WEDNESDAY, June 1, will consist of Racine's Tragedy of 'PHÈDRE' (for one night only).—Friday Evening, June 3, will be presented 'Le Moineau de Lesbie.'—Saturday Evening, June 4, 'Adrienne Lecouvreur,' by Milie Rachel; Mignonnet, by M. Regnier.—Monday Evening, June 6, Emile Augier's New Play of 'Diane,' which has been so highly successful.—Early in the following week will be presented the New Play of 'Lady Tartuffe,' by Madame Emile de Girardin. The character of Virginie de Blossac, by Milie Rachel; Le Baron des Tourbières, by M. Regnier.—Subsequently will be presented 'Louise de Lignerolles,' which has been recently performed in Paris by Milie Rachel with so much success. The Classical Plays of 'Les Horaces,' 'Andromaque,' and 'Virginie,' may be each presented for one representation only during the present engagement. A subscription for Milie Rachel's performances, for two or three representations a week, may be arranged, at a considerable reduction upon the nightly admission to the Stalls, Boxes, or Pit, at Mr. Mitchell's Library, 33, Old Bond Street.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Messiah, &c. By G. F. Handel. A new edition, &c., by John Bishop of Cheltenham.—It might have been presumed that Mr. Novello's hand edition of 'The Messiah' would have supplied the demand for a cheap edition of this master-work in a portable form. Messrs. Cocks & Co., however, give us something like proof positive to the contrary. It is true, that Mr. Bishop's edition of 'The Messiah' may be found less available for a public room than Mr. Novello's, because it is more complete and valuable for the library, possessing all the variations, omitted music, &c. belonging to the Oratorio, published in the form of an Appendix—but hence larger in bulk. In a Preface which is somewhat out of taste, Mr. Bishop gives himself credit for his manner of writing the vocal parts.—We do not see why the alto clef should have been discarded if the tenor clef was

retained. Mr. Bishop calls attention, too, to the manner in which he has compressed, for the use of the accompanist, the additional accompaniments added to Handel's score by Mozart,—"without," he professes, "making any great call" on the amateur's "powers of execution." That this is "flattering uncton" rather than such truth as the average amateur will admit, may be proved by any one who attempts to accompany 'The people that walked in darkness,' or the chorus, 'For unto us,'—to go no further for examples.—The accompaniments to both of the above are very rich, but could hardly be made more difficult; and the incorporation of Mozart's additions is open to question. These, however, are matters in which doctors will disagree,—while no one can be otherwise than satisfied with the form of the edition, and (considering its contents) the unexampled cheapness of its price.

PHILHARMONIC CONCERTS.—The programme of the Fifth Concert was as follows:—

Sinfonia in A, No. 2 (the slow movement *encores*), Mendelssohn; *Aria*, Signor Gardoni, Stradella; *Concerto* in D minor, Violin, M. Vieuxtemps, Vieuxtemps; *New Cantata*, 'The Departure from Paradise,' Miss Louisa Pyne, conducted by Sir Henry H. Bishop; *Overture*, 'Jessonda,' Spohr.

Part II.—*Sinfonia* in F, No. 8 (the scherzo *encores*), Beethoven; *Recit.* 'Misera, invan m'adiro,' *Aria*, 'Lento il piè,' Miss Williams, Mozart; *Overture*, 'Ester,' Handel; *Terzetto*, 'Ti prego,' Miss Pyne, Miss Williams, and Signor Gardoni, Curschmann; *Overture*, 'Figaro,' Mozart.

—Following the order of the above, we may first congratulate Signor Gardoni on the good impression made by him. His voice is this spring in excellent order.—The *Concerto* of M. Vieuxtemps is novel as regards form. It begins with a long and grave introduction, followed by an *adagio religioso*, in which the orchestra is picturesquely and effectively treated. To this succeeds a short but dashing *Scherzo* in triple tempo, on a theme with cross accents, having a more mellifluous *Trio*, according to the canonical forms. The *finale*, which might well have been employed as the first part of a grand *Concerto*, is a movement *alla marcia*. Throughout this elaborate and ambitious composition the opportunities for the utmost display of the solo instrument are many and various. The ideas are well contrasted; but there is some drawback (as we have had to remark in former concert-pieces from the same pen) in the frequency with which interest is checked and climax interrupted by the composer's predominant resolution to be grand to a degree at variance with brilliancy. The playing of M. Vieuxtemps was perfect and prodigious, without the slightest exaggeration or eccentricity. He was most cordially received.—In Sir H. Bishop's *New Cantata*, the introduction and recitative are open to question; but the *Aria*, 'Must I then leave thee, Paradise?' deserves admiration for the pathetic flow of its melody, and the judgment and delicacy with which the orchestra is treated. Miss L. Pyne, whose expression deepens as she advances in public favour, sang and said this composition with great finish; and it pleased, not only as once again bringing before us our best English composer, but by its own refinement and beauty. The orchestra was generally played very well.—A welcome variety was, Handel's *Overture*; since, in right of its grandeur, beauty, simplicity and spirit, it sounded like real music—and new, to boot—as compared with nine-tenths of the modern orchestral compositions fondly supposed to be in advance of "old Handel."

EXETER HALL.—This division of the *Athenæum* to-day exhibits in a striking fashion how various, sterling and excellent in execution is the music at present to be heard in London. No foreign capital could be named in which a performance of 'Elijah' on the scale and of the value of that given yesterday week by the *Sacred Harmonic Society* is an occurrence so familiar that a review of it would be mere tautology. The Report of the *Sacred Harmonic Society* tells an inspiring tale of prosperity and progress,—of additions to the library, increase of members, &c. &c. Let us avail ourselves of the statement to urge on the Committee the expediency of widening their repertory:—re-

minding them that our public is better prepared to be patient with novelty than it was fifteen years ago.—Space is devoted in this Report to the decorations and alterations lately made in Exeter Hall, and to the further need of improvements as to ingress and egress. These last recommendations should be seconded by every frequenter and proprietor of the building. We believe, that there is no other modern hall of assemblage in Europe so inconveniently and perilously arranged in this respect.

The circumstances attending the production of Mr. Pierson's 'Jerusalem' at Norwich enjoined close attention; and so fully were its merits and demerits as a composition examined in this journal [Nos. 1300 and 1302] that it shall suffice us simply to record the performance of the Oratorio by the *Harmonic Union* on Wednesday last.—The Oratorio has been wisely retrenched,—the cast of principal singers was strong, and the work was attended by a very large audience.

CHAMBER CONCERTS.—Though the principal events of the third meeting of the Quartett Association were, the excellent performances of Mendelssohn's first *Pianoforte Sonata*, with *violincello*, by Mdlle. Clauss and Signor Piatti, and the highly-finished delivery of Beethoven's strange, beautiful, yet overwrought Quartett, No. 12, we shall speak in preference of the judicious selection of a Quartett by Ries, Op. 70, No. 1—the first of three dedicated to Prince Radziwill—because the work is one unfamiliar to the public, and because its writer is worthy of more attention than he receives at present in England and elsewhere. Ries wrote too much for the music shops: he had the disadvantage, again, not merely of being trained under the shadow of Beethoven's colossal genius, (whence his frequent aspiration to write in Beethoven's high imaginative style,) but of living at the period when Weber's influence on German music was the strongest. Hence, under the idea of pleasing, he may have thought it necessary to attempt eccentricities of style not wholly natural to him; and hence we find in some of his works a mixture of the crude and the commonplace, which has led our too exclusive musicians to lay all of them on the shelf. By so doing they only narrow the number of our pleasures. The Quartett selected is something more than a work written in a good school. It is interesting, elegant, and individual. The treatment of the varied Russian air which stands for slow movement particularly merits regard for its ingenuity. We hope that its satisfactory effect will lead to further researches among the multitudinous and miscellaneous chamber compositions of its author. His Symphonies, too, are worthy of having a turn at the Philharmonic Concerts.

At the fourth meeting of the *Musical Union*, the most interesting piece was Mendelssohn's Posthumous Quintett, with its magnificent *Lento*, very finely led by M. Vieuxtemps. As a single slow movement, this is a nonpareil for variety, poetry, passion, and grandeur, among its composer's writings.—Beethoven's pianoforte and violin *Sonata*, No. 3, Op. 12, was very well played:—Mdlle. Clauss having essentially improved since last year in delicacy and expression, without becoming in the least affected or finical. She is sometimes not altogether correct; but this, we are inclined to think, may arise from nervousness, and not from want of due preparation,—since, that her hands are thoroughly trained we have had proof upon proof.—Herr Molique's first concert was given on Wednesday evening, with Herr Pauer for pianist.

MISS GODDARD'S CONCERT.—This entertainment claims a separate notice, because its giver is obviously trying for the highest honours as a pianist, and we think, may become the best performer on her instrument that England has till now produced. Her reading of Mendelssohn's *Second Concerto* was in the true spirit of her author: her performance of the opening *allegro* and *finale* was forcible, animated, intelligent, and as clear as her pianoforte permitted. She did her best, too, with her share of that Pianoforte Quintett by Mr. Macfarren of which we gave some account [*Athen.*

No. 1162] when the work was introduced at the *Society of British Musicians*:—this second hearing (with the advantages of superior performance) justifying our first impression, that the composition is worth revising from beginning to end, and cries aloud for a new *finale*. In addition to these pieces Miss Goddard performed solo music by Mendelssohn,—Signor Piatti repeated Herr Molique's new *Violoncello Concerto*,—Fräulein Agnes Bury made a most favourable impression on the lovers of German singing by the energy with which she gave Mendelssohn's grand *scena*, 'In felice.' She has four or five pure, pleasing and powerful *soprano* notes in her voice, from D upwards,—and sings with more method and refinement than many of her countrywomen. Herr Reichardt appears to have exaggerated his style since last year,—since, the air from 'Iphigenia in Tauris' was sung by him with a perpetual strain and force which are not called for by the composition.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.—Some account of Signor Verdi's 'Rigoletto,' which work travels Italy as 'Viscardello,' was offered in a letter written to this journal from Rome in 1851 [*Athen.* No. 1251]. The opera was, at first, received there with the most violent contumely of Italian disapproval,—though, subsequently, as we have been informed, it grew into a certain favour. Throughout Italy it has been generally popular.—It was produced this day week at the *Royal Italian Opera*; and, to judge from appearances, may possibly prove more profitable to the treasury than any of the six operas by Signor Verdi which have already been brought out in this country. But should 'Rigoletto' keep our stage for a time, we think that it will be owing partly to the strength of the cast, and the scope afforded by the principal part to Signor Ronconi's acting,—partly to the craft of Mr. Beverly, who made in his *début* as scene-painter to Covent Garden, and who has produced a pair of night pictures, the first of which is effectively original, the second deliciously beautiful,—partly because the story proves delightful to English play-goers of fashion. These seem now, like the girls in Miss Austen's 'Northanger Abbey,' to have eyes, ears, and hearts only for something "very horrid." It is the golden age for 'Corsican Brothers,' 'Vampires,' and such dismal tales,—for *Quasimodo* hurling *Claude Frollo* from his belfry, and for *Triboulet*, the King's humpbacked fool, dragging the body of his murdered daughter across the stage in a sack:—which last incident forms the choice catastrophe of the work of art before us.—On the night in 1832 when M. Victor Hugo's play, 'Le Roi s'amuse,' was performed for the first and only time at the *Théâtre Français*, this revolting novelty was received with a storm of censure. That, however, which is not tolerated when spoken, may be forgiven when it is sung. The very situation at the Cross at Chailloit which drove Sir E. Lytton's 'La Vallière' off the English stage, was received with shouts of applause in the Italian opera of 'Malek Adhel.'

That we may not take our readers' acquaintance with the French "drama of Despair" too much for granted, let us indicate slightly the four divisions into which the opera drawn from M. Hugo's suppressed tragedy is divided.—The scene is transferred from the Louvre to the Court of Mantua. The first act is devoted to a court ball, at which the Duke (Signor Mario) amuses himself somewhat in the style of *Don Juan*,—while his Fool, the hunchback *Rigoletto* (Signor Ronconi), "moralizes" his master's gallantries, by taunting the fathers and husbands who are insensible to such marks of court favour.—In the second act the shame is brought home to Rigoletto's own house: his daughter *Gilda* (Madame Bosio), who has been cautiously secluded by him from the rakish eyes of the Court, and is believed to be the Fool's mistress by those cognizant of her existence, is dragged from home at night by a party of young nobles,—the Duke having fixed upon her as one of those whom he delights to honour.—Act the third brings Rigoletto to court again;—where, after some vain entreaty, he discovers his daughter, and learns from her what her fate has been.—In act the fourth, the Duke, out roving in the suburbs, is beguiled by

Madlena (Mlle. Nantier Didiée) into the house of *Sparafucile* (Signor Tagliafico), a mercenary bravo, whom Rigoletto hires to assassinate the Duke. Madlena, however, takes a fancy to the fly in the web; and the fact of the poor outcast *Gilda* arriving in boy's attire enables the assassin to earn his fee by substituting one victim for another. Her half-murdered body is placed in the sack, which Rigoletto has undertaken to fling into the river. While the buffoon is dragging his hideous load thitherward, he is astounded by the voice of the heartless Duke, who leaves the haunt of crime singing gaily as he goes. The Fool opens the sack, discovers therein his dying daughter, and with his frenzy over his direful mistake the tale of horror concludes.

Now—apart from the fact that when the terse and poignant, though extravagant, dialogue of Victor Hugo is stripped from this tale, it becomes a bald melo-drama of coarse and bloody quality,* as such unfit for music—'Rigoletto' is, on the other hand, made difficult to treat for the Italian theatre by the complexity of its situations and the number of secondary characters required to work out the plot,—there being no fewer than six persons in addition to the five principal artists. Signor Verdi, therefore, seems to have attempted to be dramatic in the French style. As, however, was stated in the account of 'Rigoletto' already referred to,—while we perceive the attempt, in no place can we accept it as having been fulfilled. Such effect as 'Rigoletto' produces, is produced not by its dramatic propriety of sound to sense. There is hardly one phrase in the part of the buffoon which might not belong to Signor Verdi's *Doge* in 'I due Foscari,' or to his *Nabucco*. The music of combination and dramatic action, again, is puerile and queer:—odd modulations being perpetually wrenched out with the vain hope of disguising the intrinsic meagreness of the ideas,—and flutes being used for violins, or *vice versa*, apparently not to charm the hearer, but to make him stare. Thus, the opening ball scene, accompanied throughout by orchestras on the stage—the abduction *finale*—the scene betwixt *Rigoletto* and the courtiers—and the storm in the last act—are alike miserable in their meagre patchiness and want of meaning. It is a merit that, in performance of a promise made in one of his prefaces, Signor Verdi is less violent in his instrumentation in 'Rigoletto' than he was in his earlier operas; but he has not here arrived at the music of intellect and expression—which is French or German—as distinguished from the music of melody, which is Italian.

Tried with reference to prettiness of melody —(for originality we have long ceased to bargain in Italian opera)—'Rigoletto' must be pronounced weaker than 'Ernani' or 'Nabucco'. The subject of the last movement to the duet betwixt *Rigoletto* and *Gilda*, in the second act, (which was *encored*), is distinct, and not unpleasant. The air of display for *Gilda*, in the garden scene,—called in the published copies of the music, a *Polacca*, though in common *tempo*,—is as ineffective a mixture of common-place and eccentricity as it ever fell to the lot of *prima donna* to deliver.—There is animation in the *stretto*, 'Si vendetta,' to the second duet betwixt *Rigoletto* and *Gilda*, closing the third act.—The Duke's waltz, 'La Donna è mobile,' got its *encore*, owing to the enjoyment thrown into it by Signor Mario, and owing to there being some motion in its rhythm; but as a tune it will bear no comparison even with the 'Brindisi' in 'Lucrezia Borgia'.—The gem of the opera comes soon after this *ballata*:—this is, the quartett 'Bella figlia,' founded on a melodious phrase, with clever grouping and neat contrast of the voices,—in which the climax is naturally

* To illustrate, however, that simple strength of situation can hardly be carried too far for Music, we may instance the supper scene in 'Don Juan,' the vault duet in 'Fidello,' the fourth act of 'Les Huguenots,' and the entire book of 'La Juive'—of its kind a masterpiece. But to those who might object that the last-named opera trenches too closely on melo-drama, we reply by pointing out the vast resources furnished to the musician, not merely by the conflict of passion, as distinguished from the ferment of intrigue, but by the contrast of local colour:—the Jew and the Church, the Court and the People, each giving a separate cue to the musician.

wrought up, and by which are excited those genial sensations of pleasure which admit of no doubt, and require neither proof nor apology. On the strength of this quartett, we would still hope that Signor Verdi has not "said his last word;" and that he may even now one day come to see more clearly than he has heretofore seen, that thought is not antagonistic to beauty—nor dramatic effect to musical symmetry. This quartett was deservedly *encored*, and may become a stock favourite among pieces of its form and order.

A word remains to be said concerning the principal artists who appeared.—Signor Ronconi put forth his power to the utmost as *Rigoletto*. We cannot, however, rank it among his best personations; but this lies in the nature of the part,—which is too abrupt and naked in its transitions in Opera, and which, moreover, is made superfluously difficult by the lugubrious characterlessness of its music.—Madame Bosio appeared to more advantage as *Gilda* than she has yet done in London; not merely because in her new part she is exposed to no comparison, but because her style of execution precisely suits Signor Verdi's music. By him the singers are invited, not forbidden, to slacken *tempo*; and the hearer is compelled to wait for the note, not driven on by the energy of a voice ready and powerful.—Signor Mario as the Duke looked seductive and galliard to a wish:—musically, however, the part is not one of his best.—The performance throughout had been perfectly prepared and was highly finished, and the impression on the subscribers seemed to be satisfactory.—How far beyond their circle the popularity may spread—how long it will endure even in our present dearth of Italian operas—time must show.

HAYMARKET.—On Saturday a new three-act comedy was produced at this house. It is from the pen of the Rev. Mr. White, the author of 'The King of the Commons,'—and is entitled 'The Mouse Trap.' We have always suspected a fund of comedy in this writer,—and in this play it is manifested in a singular and original manner. The novelty of the story and treatment imparts a freshness to the effect not unlikely to attract attention. The plot is intricate, and requires more stage tact than Mr. White possesses to produce it with thorough intelligibility;—but the strangeness of the situations secures a continued interest in the development. The central figure is one Sir Clerimont Waldron (Mr. Chippendale), an old dandy of sixty who makes love to his ward of sixteen, *Helen Dallaway* (Miss Louisa Howard). But his matrimonial speculations are sadly dashed by some revelations of his early life which are apparently about to be made. Five-and-twenty years ago, he and his friend Dallaway had visited Spain;—where each had a *liaison*, the results of which were a daughter to one and a son to the other. But as they travelled under the name of Smith, and both returned to England before the birth of their respective offspring, they felt secure at the time that the adventure would be productive of no ulterior consequences. Sir Clerimont had indeed given a promise of marriage to his lady, and a portrait of himself;—and these he now learns would be sufficient to constitute a real marriage. Sir Clerimont has reason for alarm,—for the Consul is now in England, seeking for a Capt. Smith as father of a child under precisely similar circumstances; and evidence accumulates that Sir Clerimont is the identical man. A girl in his service, *Judith Smith* (Mrs. Fitzwilliam), daughter of a gipsy, *Camomile*, (Mrs. Stanley), he suspects to be the child in question,—and her mother, with whom he has an interview as a dumb woman, he believes to be the lady, now grown dilapidated and coarse by her Zincolose habits and wanderings, to whom he had been so affianced. Both mother and daughter he is anxious to pension off, as the purchase consideration for their secrecy. At this juncture, he is visited by one *Obadiah Jack Marling* (Mr. Buckstone), once a sailor, but now, as the condition of inheriting some property, a Quaker, with the prefix *Obadiah* tacked on to his original names,—and whose conversation oscil-

lates between the acquired language of his adopted sect and that of his primitive calling. A broad extravagant caricature is this, which brought to the scenes of conventional and fashionable life the seasonable relief of eccentric humor. By this somewhat rough customer Sir Clerimont is identified as Capt. Smith, and the father of whom the Consul is in search. But the child in whose favour the claim is set up turns out not to be a daughter, but a son, *George Marling* (Mr. W. Farren)—the secretary to Sir Clerimont, and lover of his ward *Helen*. Perplexed and confused beyond all measure, he has no means of settling the question until the arrival of a box of documents, which had been stolen by the gipsy Camomile, but which Judith contrives to persuade her to give up. These documents, it is discovered, relate to the other *pseudo* Capt. Smith, Sir Clerimont's deceased friend Dalway, leaving Sir Clerimont himself in his bachelor condition. But all this explains not the title of the piece—"The Mouse Trap." Sir Clerimont's friend, *Lord Winterdell* (Mr. Tilbury), is of a scientific turn, and has expended his intellects on a new kind of mousetrap invented by himself. At the commencement of the play, he has laid the bases of the important structure; evermore as it proceeds, he intrudes with the little machine, announcing progress; and at the conclusion, he declares the work to be finished:—when, identifying it with the play itself, he claims credit for a novel kind of construction, thereby indicating that the author is perfectly aware of the peculiarities of the present work, and has placed it on the boards as an experiment to ascertain how far so complex a story is capable of stage illustration.

Another character of importance is added to the *dramatis personæ*, one *General Bowlift* (Mr. Howe),—who, to engage the affections of a sentimental elderly lady, who esteems heroism more than a sound body, pretends to have been disabled and invalided in the course of his campaigns, and feigns asthma, gout, and wounded limbs,—particularly complaining of pains in his "Salamanca arm." He succeeds in his project; but instead of coming in for 30,000*l.*, a year as he expected, is fain to content himself with 150*l.*,—all the lady's annuity.

It will be perceived, that the comedy aims at including a number of character-parts; and that the writer has brought before us a company of oddities,—to which the performers have most sedulously given life and colour. All merit praise; but Mr. Buckstone's portraiture was the most striking of the whole.

ADELPHI.—The cause of dramatic legitimacy and theatrical free-trade is now receiving rapid development. On Wednesday, 'The Merry Wives of Windsor' was acted by the company of this theatre,—the play being illustrated with some charming scenery. Mr. Webster was *Falstaff*; and in some most essential traits of the character he gave an admirable impersonation of it.—Mr. Leigh Murray was not quite equal to *Ford*:—but *Madame Celeste* as *Mrs. Ford* was a rich peculiarity,—while *Mrs. Page* was unexceptionably represented by Mrs. Keeley.—*Sir Hugh Evans* by Mr. Keeley and *Caius* by Mr. Wigan are portraits with which we are already familiar.—The costumes are carefully selected,—being of the fifteenth century. The revival is a significant experiment,—and was well received.

PRINCESS'S.—The veteran T. P. Cooke appeared on Monday as *William* in 'Black-eyed Susan,'—to the great delight of the holiday visitants of this theatre—who were numerous.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.—The obituary of last week included the name of Madame Feron Glosop. In her day, this Lady enjoyed considerable reputation as a singer,—and, we believe, for some seasons; she was accepted as a *prima donna* in the great opera-houses of Italy. Those, too, were days when great Italian opera-houses had great singers. At the close of her Italian career, Madame Feron sang for some years in the English theatres,—was subsequently called in to assist at

our Italian Opera before Easter,—and recently made one of the vocal companies assembled by Mr. Maddox at the *Princess's Theatre*.

For M. "Lowinski," announced last week among the arrivals in London, read M. *Sowinski*.—Signor Bazzini, the Italian violinist, is also said to have come from Paris, with the intention of passing the remainder of the season here.

Mr. Ella's Record of his "Musical Union" announces, among the other arrivals in London, another prodigious boy-pianist, in "Master Arthur Napoleao,—eight years old, a Portuguese." The child played, we believe, at the close of the last meeting of the *Musical Union*,—and he is said to exhibit real promise and expression. Holding firm the principle and feeling which we have often expressed regarding precocious exhibitions, we receive with more than common interest evidences of musical genius from such "outlying" districts as the Peninsula:—fancying, as we do, that in Germany, France, and England, much that is best in Music is heard so frequently and enjoyed so easily as to render many a gifted creature *blat* almost before he is young,—and that in remoter districts this "folly of over-much wisdom" may have less cogency in destruction of originality than is found to be the case in more musical countries. The universal diffusion of art and abridgment or abolition of struggle has its bad as well as its good side.—Let us turn to the latter, and with a view to the popular enjoyments of the Londoners, quote a passage from the miscellanies habitually included in Mr. Ella's programme, with our heartiest concurrence in the recommendation contained and the opinion expressed.—

"Kroll's Garden (at Berlin), outside the Barrier, has recently been built, since its conflagration, on a scale of great magnificence. The entire suite of rooms for dinners, suppers, smoking, promenade, and music, covers a large area. The music-room, most elegantly decorated, is said to be one of the largest in Europe. The admission to the concert was ten-pence: there were two bands, Strauss, from Vienna, played the dance-music, whilst the band belonging to the establishment performed solos and classical works. Ice, coffee, and beer, are served in the music-room, but no smoking is allowed. I have always thought that we were cramped in London, of similar dimensions, equally well furnished, offering the same variety of entertainment for 'mind and body,' and conducted with the same decorum and attention to comfort, as at Kroll's establishment, a fortune might be realized by the *entrepreneur*. It is quite notorious that, at the present moment, large fortunes are being rapidly acquired, in the vicinity of London, where cheap, popular music, of the *lowest grade* in art, is heard, to which few persons of the middle classes would have the courage to take their wives and families."

We are informed that Mr. Pierson is at work on another Oratorio,—of which the subject is taken from 'Paradise Lost.'

The *New York Herald* devotes "a leader" to the establishment of the new Opera House in New York, as an institution formally recognized by the legislature. The money for its erection, raised on the joint-stock principle, is all subscribed minus twelve thousand dollars. The theatre is to be "calculated to accommodate with seats four to five thousand persons." The site is fixed upon;—the edifice, however, is not yet commenced.—"It is to be constructed in the most solid and enduring manner; and it is expected that it will be ready for public opening by December next,—and that Mario, Grisi, and other renowned artists will take part in its inauguration."

The second Number of the *Fliegende Blätter für Musik* includes one paper of extraordinary interest. To Horace Walpole's remark on some Ministerial movement, "There is nothing new under the sun," George Selwyn replied, "No, nor under the grandson."—Turning the repartee backwards, it may be said that "there is nothing new under the grandfather."—In the article adverted to, particulars are given of a 'Don Juan' thirty years antecedent to Mozart's—being a *ballet* on the story to which no less a genius than Gluck composed the music,—and which (continues the writer) could hardly have been unknown to Mozart—since the music of the opera bears in many places undeniable resemblance to the music of the earlier work. The *scenarium* of the *ballet*, divided into four portions, is published in the *Fliegende Blätter*. We can conceive few musical events more interesting than a sight of the score would be.

Herr Ferdinand Hiller's 'Jerusalem,' which is described as being a *historical oratorio* or *cantata* rather than a religious work, has been lately performed at Osnabrück with success.—M. Von Flotow is engaged on a new opera on the legend of 'Rübezahl,' which will be shortly completed.—It was mentioned in the *Times* a few days ago, that all the singing clubs in Hesse-Cassel have been closed by order of the Government.

Herr Wagner's dramatic plans for Music grow like the immortal men in buckram. A letter from Weimar mentions, that instead of the trilogy from the "Nibelungen Lied" on which he has been known for these three years past to be engaged, he has completed four poems, which are about to be set to music. His is one of the cases, we suspect, in which Ambition may be left to its own task of Babel-building without much mischief being thereby done. The limits of possibility would seem to be already left far behind; and the world, whether of believers or of disbelievers in this new school of unmusical music, may wait for some time ere so vast an undertaking is completed.—From private sources, too, we learn, that a great demonstration is in preparation at Zurich, where Herr Wagner at present resides, and where his three operas—'The Flying Dutchman,' 'Tannhäuser,' and 'Lohengrin,' are to be performed on successive days.—Meanwhile, there can be no doubt that German opera is becoming more German than it was when we first knew the country, and when from Dan to Beersheba little was to be heard except Hérold, Auber, Halévy, Balfe, and 'Die Nachtwandlerin.'—Letters from Leipzig announce to us the revival at the theatre there of 'Alceste,' in which the part of *Admetus* is to be sung by that very agreeable tenor, Herr Schneider, whom our Correspondent of last autumn mentioned.

'Il Bravo,' by Mercadante, has been just produced at the Italian Opera in Paris, without any extraordinary success. The artist who appears to have been the most vigorously applauded on the occasion was Signor Robecchi—the scene-painter.—A pianoforte with pedals just perfected by M. Erard seems to have made some sensation in the world of pianoforte players. It seems like Irish praise to add, that for organ-students such an instrument will be a valuable aid to study.—There has been long a fancy current among the adventurers in music (M. Liszt included) for reviving, in furtherance of the modern effects of pianoforte music, the "two decks" of keys which used to distinguish a first-class harpsichord,—giving to each hand an independent expansion of range which might in a few cases prove convenient and effective. Nevertheless, we generally mistrust all such elaborations and complications,—as tending more or less to destroy the special character of the instrument under treatment, and to tempt composers to write not music so much as pieces mechanically contrived to exhibit "the new invention."

A friend from Naples, after glancing at the unsatisfactory nature of the past winter's Operatic season, gleaned week by week from the Neapolitan journals, in the *Athenæum*, goes on to mention some causes for the dearth which those periodicals do not—and we presume, dare not—tell. "Certain it is," says he, "that the police all over Italy are making terrible war on the 'libretti,'—a fact which cannot add to the inspiration of the composers. When the work is completed, the reviser finds something disrespectful either to the King or to the Church. Poet and maestro are alike reprimanded, and ordered perhaps to change the entire scheme of the opera, for high treason in Italy may be twanged with the strings of a fiddle, or breathed in the wind of a horn. Thus it is, that the titles of old operas are changed and pieces omitted, so that a man scarcely recognizes his most familiar friends. Musical journals, too, are equally exposed to the Argus-eyed reviser. On a recent occasion a musical writer was called up before the police, and thus interrogated:—'What do you mean by saying "the Prince's hopes are there wrecked" in your review? We won't have it; these allusions are political and revolutionary.' The writer assured the priest who acted as reviser, that he had no intention of offending. 'Yes!' said the priest,

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To C J. C.— W. W.— Enra exile"

'you tell me that, and you wear at the same time a wide-awake hat: begone! and if you write more, write with loyalty and respect towards his Majesty by the grace of God.' This may read as a joke in England,—here, however, it is a solemn and sad reality. Let these things pass:—as regards time to come, the royal theatre of Naples has published a *programme*, which promises a new opera by Lillo. The summer company is to include Mesdames De Roissi and Borghi Mamo, Signori Pancani, Giuglini, Praticco, Pacini, Arati, Luzio and Salvetti. I can confirm such accounts as may have reached you of the success of Signora Escott, the American lady, who has filled the *Teatro Nuovo* every night during the winter season,—having sung in Mercadante's new opera 'Violetta' for thirty-two nights. Her late success in 'Il Barbiere,' too, was complete." The Holy Week in Naples was enlivened, or saddened (as the case may be), by a grand performance of sacred music, over which Mercadante presided. The *maestro* has addressed the following letter to the 'Omnibus':—which says all that it is necessary to remark on the subject.—"I hasten to give you some account of the 'Misere' which for about forty years has been performed in our Royal College on Holy Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. This species of musical composition was for voices only first adopted in Rome; and the *Maestri di Capella* in St. Peter's—Jomelli, Guglielmi, and Zingarelli—there composed their *capri d'opera*. Zingarelli being called to his native country to direct our Royal College, was the first who, forty years since, introduced it amongst us, and the effect has been constant, as also the attendance. The execution of it also has been constantly accurate. The colouring—the accent, so to speak—pass by tradition from the old to the new pupils. The number of performers is almost always 150: amongst whom are mingled on such occasions not only the pupils of the singing class, but the instrumentalists, composers, masters:—all feeling honoured in contributing to produce the best effect. It is my opinion, that the change which has come over music from the simple to a noisy and complicated species of composition, has greatly contributed to make this sweet and tranquil music more relished once in the year. The expectation, too, of hearing music which in no respect resembles that with which one meets every day, awakens the curiosity of our own countrymen, as also of foreigners, and one listens year after year with the same pleasure and attention."

MISCELLANEA

Society of Antiquaries.—We understand the Committee appointed by the Society of Antiquaries to consider the best mode of restoring the Society to its former efficient state, have agreed upon their Report, and also to the revised laws to be recommended to the Fellows for adoption. Of the nature of the alterations suggested, we know nothing; for while, on the one hand, it is stated that the Report recommends changes of a most sweeping character; on the other, it is rumoured that the changes to be proposed are neither many nor important. The truth in this, as in most cases, no doubt lies midway between the two: and the Report will probably be found to breathe a spirit of conservative reform. Embracing, as the proposed changes necessarily must, points on which great difference of opinion has existed, and may continue to exist, we hope they will receive the impartial consideration of the Fellows; and that they will bear in mind, that in coming to the conclusions at which they have arrived, the Committee have had the advantage of sources of information, necessarily beyond the reach of the body generally; and that those very recommendations, which at first sight may seem most open to objection, may probably be those which their information most completely justifies.—*Notes and Queries.*

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—F. A.—F. C.—An Author.—J. B.—J. C.—T. B.—F. E.—H. N.—A Subscriber to the *Athenæum*.—W. W.—J. C. Jun.—W. S. M.—received.

Erratum.—P. 585, col. 2, ll. 74 and 75, for "poets of exile" read *tribes of exile*.

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NOTICE.—DUBLIN EXHIBITION.—All parties proceeding to Ireland are requested immediately to provide themselves with copies of the TOURIST'S ILLUSTRATED HANDBOOK FOR IRELAND. To be had at all the North-Western and Chester and Holyhead Railway Stations—containing Portraits of W. Bagan and Two Hundred Engravings, price 5s. Gratis to every purchaser of a Tourist's Ticket.

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THE JOURNAL of the SOCIETY of ARTS is published Weekly, price 3d., stamped 4d. Supplied free to Members of the Society and to Institutions in Union. No. XXVI. Friday, May 29th, contains:—On the Proposed Central American Canal, by Mr. A. G. Findlay—Trade Museum—Maritime and Mercantile College in the City—Self-supporting Education—Exhibition of Industry in Paris in 1855—Plan of the Ground purchased by the Commissioners of 1851—Miscellaneous—Weekly List of Parliamentary Printed Papers—Weekly List of Patents and Registered Designs. Advertisements received at the Society's House, John-street, Adelphi. Published for the Society, by George Bell, 105, Fleet-street.

JOURNAL of the PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY.

No. V. published this day, contains:—Mr. Latimer Clark, On an Arrangement for taking Stereoscopic Pictures with a single Camera.
 Mr. Calvert Jones, On a Bifocal Camera.
 Prof. Wheatstone, On a New Portable Reflecting Stereoscope.
 Mr. Talbot's Process of Photographic Engraving.
 M. Martin's Method of obtaining Photographic Pictures on Wood Blocks or Metal Plates.
 Mr. Foster, On Recording Photographic Phenomena.
 Mr. Davey, On the Employment of Talc in the Collodion Process.
 New Formula for a Developing Solution—Answers to Queries—Report of the Liverpool Photographic Society—Photographic Gossip—Abstract of a Patent for Photographic Engraving, &c.
 This Journal appears regularly on the 21st of the month. All communications to be sent direct to the Editor, at the Publishers.
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London: H. Baillière, 219, Regent-street.

THE PRESSES.
This day is published, No. 3 (Price Sixpence) of THE PRESS, the New Weekly Conservative Paper. Published every Saturday. Office, No. 110, Strand.—Money orders for subscriptions to be made payable to Mr. Alfred Ives.

TURNING THE TABLES.—For an explanation of the real cause of Table-moving, on physiological principles, with a refutation of the hypothesis of "Spirits" and "Electricity," see the LEADER Newspaper of THIS DAY. No. 165. Price Sixpence.—Office, 7, Wellington-street, Strand.

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The following is a specimen of the Annual Premiums required to insure 1000 on a single Life for the whole period of Life:—

Age.	With Profits.	Without Profits.	Age.	With Profits.	Without Profits.
15	£1 15 7	£1 11 8	40	£3 5 0	£3 18 6
20	1 15 7	1 15 8	45	3 15 9	3 18 6
25	3 4 3	3 15 9	50	4 9 9	4 16 9
30	3 9 8	3 15 9	55	5 8 9	5 17 10
35	3 16 10	3 11 5	60	6 15 0	6 1 6

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JOHN CAZENOVE, Secretary.

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Empowered by Special Act of Parliament.

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The small share of Profit divisible in future among the Shareholders being now provided for, the assured will hereafter derive all the benefits obtainable from a Mutual Office, with, at the same time, complete freedom from liability—thus combining in the same office all the advantages of both systems.
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LOANS.—Loans are advanced on Policies which have been in existence five years and upwards, to the extent of nine-tenths of their value.

BONUSES.—FIVE BONUSES have been declared; at the last, in January, 1892, the sum of 131,135 was added to the Policies, producing a Bonus varying with the difference ages from 34s to 12s. 10s. per cent. on the Sum Assured.

PARTICIPATION IN PROFITS.—Policies participate in the Profits in proportion to the number and amount of the Premiums paid between every division, so that if only one year's Premium be received prior to the Books being closed for any division, the Policy on which it is paid may obtain its due share. The Books close for the next Division on 30th June, 1893, therefore those who effect Policies before the 30th June next, will be entitled to one year's additional share of Profits over later assurers.

APPLICATION OF BONUSES.—The next and future Bonuses may be either received in cash, or applied at the option of the assured in any other way.

NON-PARTICIPATION IN PROFITS.—Assurances may be effected for a Fixed Sum at considerably reduced rates, and the Premiums for term Policies are lower than at most other Safe Offices.

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POLICIES are granted on the lives of persons in any station, and of every age, and for any sum on lives from 50s. to 10,000.

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GEORGE H. PINCKARD, Resident Secretary.
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ESTABLISHED IN 1826. SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL, £240,000.
This Society effects every description of Life Assurance on most favourable terms, both on the bonus and non-bonus systems. Its non-bonus rates are low, and the following examples exhibit the additions made to the beneficial policies at the last three divisions of profits.

Policy Date.	Amount.	Annual Premium.	Bonus added in 1842.	Bonus added in 1847.	Bonus added in 1852.	Total Bonus added in three Divisions.
1838-40	£ 33	£ 4	£ 13 4	£ 27 10	£ 38 18	£ 78 4
1839-40	33	13	103 13	4 107 9	0 35 7	4 307 3
"	1100	28	13 18	3 30 10	6 7 1	6 185 3
"	890	14	13 14	3 30 10	8 34 11	8 75 1

Officers in the Army, Navy, and Militia, Dissolved Lives, and persons going beyond the limits of Europe, are also assured on moderate terms. The former do not pay an extra rate until called into active service.

Tables of rates, and all further particulars, may be obtained at the Office.
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The large paid-up capital and accumulations of premiums carefully invested afford the most absolute security to the assured with this Corporation, which has been 30 years established.
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The advantages to insure with this Office will be found all that can be desired, whether considered in point of security, moderate rates on policies, liberal conditions, or the large periodical additions made to life policies.
Table showing the Additions to Policies of 1000l., which have been 17 complete years in existence:

Age when assured.	Additions.	Total Sum payable in case of death.
30	£240 1 6	£1,240 1 6
35	254 3 3	1,254 3 3
40	259 6 11	1,259 6 11
45	267 11 10	1,267 11 10
50	281 12 7	1,281 12 7

Averaging upwards of 12 per cent. per annum.
The next division of profits will take place on 1st August, 1893, being an interval of five years; and persons opening policies previous to that date will participate in the division.

FIRE INSURANCES at the reduced rates.

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The Premiums required by this Society for insuring young lives are lower than in many other established offices, and Insurers are fully protected from all risk by an ample guarantee fund in addition to the accumulated funds derived from the investments of Premiums.

Prospectuses may be obtained at the Office in Threadneedle-street, London, or of any of the Agents of the Society.
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LIFE DEPARTMENT.—This Office offers a low scale of Premiums to Non-Members without participation in profits, or a Member's Scale of Premiums with an annual participation in the whole of the profits after five full annual payments.

In the years 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852, and 1853, the premiums on all members' policies were abated 25s. per cent., that is to say, a premium of 100s. was reduced to 67s. 5s.

Insurances effected before the 30th of June next will participate one year earlier than if effected after that date.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.—Insurances are effected on every description of property at the usual rates.

By order, RICHARD RAY, Secretary.

UNITED KINGDOM LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY. Established by Act of Parliament in 1834.
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The distinctive features of the Company embrace, amongst others:—
Tables of Premiums formed on the lowest scale compatible with security, and constructed to meet the various wants of Assurers, and every risk to which protection by Assurance can be extended.

One-half the Life Premium for the first five years may remain on credit.

Loans granted on approved Personal Security.
Assured not restricted in their limits of travel, as in most other Companies, but may proceed from any part of Europe to another in peace, without Licence, and to British North America, and many parts of the United States, without extra premium, by merely giving the ordinary notice to the Office in London of intended travel.

Whole-world Policies granted at slightly increased rates of Premium, thus rendering a Policy in money transactions a real security.

Prospectuses, and every information, may be obtained upon application to the Resident Director.

THE STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY. Established 1823.

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CASES FROM THE BOOKS OF THE COMPANY, 1892, Showing the Benefits of Life Assurance.

On 26th March, 1852, died A. B., aged 51, having effected an Assurance on his Life of 4000 l. on 22nd September, 1851, when he was in perfect health. The sum assured, 4000 l., has been paid to his Representatives, and it may be observed, has been paid to the Company was only one year's premium of 292 l. 17s. 11d.

On 17th July, 1859, died C. D., aged 33, having effected an Assurance on his Life for 2000 l. on 20th January, 1858, when he was in excellent health. His payment to the Company was one year's premium of 47 l. 2s. 4d.

These two cases show how complete and satisfactory such a provision is from the moment a Policy is effected. The following cases will further illustrate the benefits of the system with reference more particularly to Participation in the Profits:—

On 4th May, 1859, died E. F., aged 65. He effected an Assurance on his Life in 1825 for 1000 l. on 1st January, 1826, when he was 25 years of age. And there was added by the Company from the Profits, 364 l. 10s.

Making the sum paid, £1364 10s.

On 19th June, 1852, died G. H., aged 73. He effected an Assurance on his Life for 2500 l. in 1827, by Annual Payments of 102 l. 6s. 6d., and to the sum assured, 2500 l., added from the Profits 194 l. 10s., and to the sum assured, 2694 l. 10s.

On 8th June, 1852, died H. B., aged 74. He effected an Assurance on his Life in 1835 for 1000 l. on 1st January, 1836, when he was 25 years of age. And there was added by the Company from the Profits, 412 l. 10s.

Making the claim, £1412 10s.

Such examples could be greatly increased by quotations from the books, but the above cases are sufficient to illustrate the great benefits and advantages of the system.

WILLIAM THOS. THOMSON, Manager.
PETER EWART, Resident Secretary.

Every information regarding the Company may be had on application to the Office of the Company under mentioned, or to any of the Company's Agents.

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